

THE GATEWAY

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Provincial graduate funding awarded

JENNIFER HUYGEN
Senior News Editor

Alberta's graduate students are set to receive a financial boost this academic year as the provincial government has announced an \$11 million investment in graduate-level scholarships, almost doubling the current total amount.

Bumping up last year's total of approximately \$11.7 million in scholarship funding, the newly allocated capital will go toward both expanding existing programs and adding new scholarships, bringing the new total to approximately \$23 million.

"I think Alberta is coming to a point in its economic development where the focus is going to shift to graduate studies in a big way. Now, an undergraduate degree is becoming kind of the norm in a lot of fields, so the graduate degree is the next step," said Ben Whynot, president of the Graduate Students' Association (GSA) at the University of Alberta.

The augmented focus on master's and doctoral-level students in 2008/09 comes after the Alberta government spent last year addressing several issues in the undergraduate funding domain.

"We wanted to, last year, expand the opportunities for undergraduate education, and you'll recall where we expanded the scholarships for undergraduate [students]," explained Doug Horner, Minister of Advanced Education and Technology.

"This is the next phase of that sectoral thing where we say, 'Okay, a comprehensive research institution needs to be able to attract and retain a substantial category of graduate students in the fields they're going to be working in.'"

The majority of the new funding will go towards expanding the Queen Elizabeth II Graduate Scholarship from 317 recipients to 1000 recipients province-wide. The government has also announced a similar expansion of the undergraduate Louise McKinney Post-Secondary Scholarship, which will now accept 1400 students, up from 950 last year.

As Liberal MLA Harry Chase explained, the funding comes as good news for a group of students often left out of the limelight.

"I've spoken with grad student representatives at the [University of Calgary], and grads have been the forgotten part of the formula kind of thing," he observed.

PLEASE SEE **GRADUATES** • PAGE 5

FIRST-COME, FIRST-SERVE With an increase in ridership on Edmonton's LRT system, students who rely on public transit are finding it difficult to get to class on time. Though schedules are being tweaked to accommodate the influx, there's no quick solution in sight to the overcrowding. To read more, turn to page 3.

JILL RICE

NDP leader Jack Layton details PSE election promises

KIRSTEN GORUK
Deputy News Editor

As the federal election nears its halfway point, universities across the country are awaiting the release of the NDP's postsecondary education platform. It's an announcement that Jack Layton's party promises will not only surpass the efforts of the Conservatives and Liberals, but will prove the best option for students.

The NDP leader enunciated these thoughts last week during a conference call with campus media outlets across the country, answering questions about PSE issues despite withholding part of his election platform.

The call began with comments from NDP Postsecondary Education Critic Denise Savoie, who expressed that she is less than impressed by the Liberal's

recently unveiled platform.

"It was certainly an overdue attempt to bring changes to Canada's postsecondary education systems, an attempt to overturn some of the damage they've done," she said.

Savoie also detailed the NDP's reaction to the dissolution of the Canadian Millennium Scholarship Foundation and what their party feels is the right course of action to return that funding.

"We were concerned when the Conservative government intended to eliminate the Millennium scholarship fund without replacing it," she recalled.

"We were intent on ensuring that that money could not be lost or disappear from student aid programs."

With that sentiment in mind, the NDP have pledged to continue their advocacy efforts.

"[It's] unfortunate that they chose to make it income-based, [but] it's a needs-based grant system that we need to advocate [for]," Savoie added.

"It's about time we had legislation [...] outlining the federal government's responsibilities for postsecondary."

JACK LAYTON
NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY LEADER

Despite the absent PSE platform, NDP leader Jack Layton remained adamant about plans for the Canada Post-Secondary Education Act, which,

before the election was called, had been given its first reading in the House of Commons.

"It's about time that we had legislation [...] outlining the federal government's responsibilities for postsecondary education. As Prime Minister [the PSE Act] would be part of our first legislative package coming into a new House of Commons," Layton said.

Considering the University of Alberta's focus on medicine and health research, Layton also elaborated on his election promise to forgive student loans for graduating healthcare professionals.

In speaking with doctors-in-training, Layton realized that the debt facing students after they graduate is what forces their hand when choosing a speciality over going into family medicine.

PLEASE SEE **LAYTON** • PAGE 3

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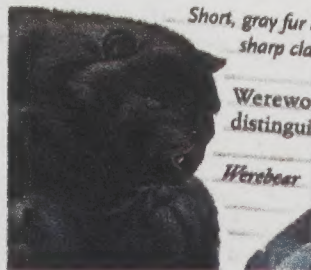
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Hungry polar bears

Conal Pierse slays Harper's plans for arctic sovereignty and offers his own unique solution

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Mighty werebears

Mike Kendrick and David Johnston venture deep into the nerd realm of Dungeons and Dragons

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IMPACT used on U of A athletes suffering concussions

MAGGIE EDMONDS
News Writer

The University of Alberta has recently become the first university in Canada to adopt Immediate Post-Concussion Assessment and Cognitive Testing (IMPACT), a web-based program that determines the effects of concussion on athletes, and a tool that is already being widely-used by major sports organizations including the NHL, NFL, and CFL.

Brought to the University last August by Dr Martin Mrazik, an assistant professor in the department of educational psychology, in conjunction with staff from the Glen Sather Sports Medicine Clinic, IMPACT has already been used by over 150 athletes from the University's hockey, football, and rugby teams. This year, the program may even be expanded to include the soccer team.

"It's a tool designed to detect whether an athlete is ready to go back to playing after they've had a concussion," Mrazik elaborated.

According to Mrazik, IMPACT involves a series of tests, such as memorizing words or counting backwards from 25, that evaluate an individual's reaction time and visual scanning.

"These are the areas that research has told us are most susceptible to the effects of a concussion," he explained.

As Mrazik noted, headaches, dizziness, nausea, memory loss, disorientation, and difficulty sleeping are just a few of the effects of concussions.

"We've learned in the last few years that recovery from concussion can cause some long term problems for athletes if they're not managed

correctly," Mrazik said.

"The cumulative effects can actually lead to long-term cognitive deficits. People have a lot more problems with their concentration, their memory, and you see a much higher incidence in things like depression."

Before the advent of IMPACT, athletes would go through a pre-season medical, and a doctor would determine from basic balance and neurological testing if the athlete was able to play. IMPACT allows doctors to take an initial test before the season starts; if the athlete suffers a concussion during the season, the test is used to track the individual's recovery back to preseason results, or better, before determining if the athlete can return to playing.

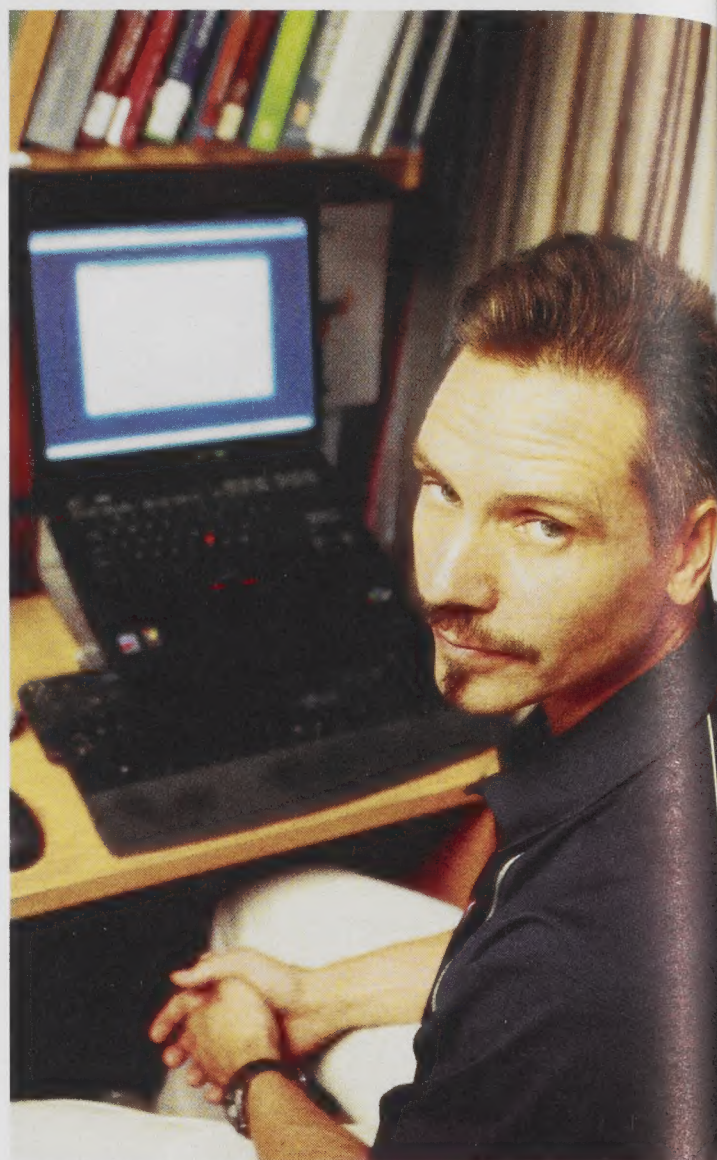
While IMPACT is currently only used on campus by the University's athletes, it's available for purchase online. However, as Mrazik cautions, doctors must be trained in the program to read and analyze the results.

"The eventual goal of this is to see the effects trickle down to all levels of sport. We want to provide a lot more education and training for local physicians, so anybody could take the test and then go see their doctor," he explained.

While elite athletes are already well monitored, Mrazik also hopes that this program can prevent younger athletes from serious injury, and educate the young and old on the consequences of concussions.

"Our goal is to provide the education of concussions," Mrazik stated.

"Ultimately, if we can minimize the number of concussions, that's the best thing."



STEPHEN CHARKO

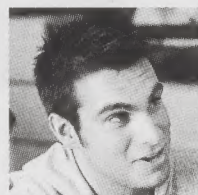
IMPACT-ING ATHLETES As Dr Martin Mrazik explained, a new web-based program can test recovery times for athletes suffering from concussions.

STREETERS

Compiled and photographed by
Lucas Wagner and Sam Brooks

As you may be aware, a number of NDP candidates recently stepped down from the federal election as a result of indiscretions from their youth.

What have you done in your university career that will prevent you from entering politics?

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Overcrowded LRTs an issue for students relying on public transit



FILE PHOTO: PETE YEE

ENDING THE RAILS Students are noticing the need to push their way onto the LRT, especially during morning peak times.

SIMON YACKULIC
News Writer

According to many students who ride the trains during morning rush hour, overcrowding on Edmonton's LRT has become an everyday occurrence. This unwelcome daily hassle seems to be the result of a sudden and unpredicted surge in commuters that has left the system seemingly under-equipped.

David Geake, LRT director for Edmonton, attributes this problem to an increase in ridership which caught everyone off guard.

"In 2000-2004 we were seeing a one or two per cent growth in ridership [...] we saw a big jump of at least ten per cent, and I think it was close to 14 per cent in the AM peak in the fall of 2006 over what we had in 2005."

With so many university students depending on the LRT to get them to and from class, the recent influx in ridership is creating problems.

"Especially in the morning, around 7am and 8pm, I think that it is really crowded," noted third-year University of Alberta psychology student and regular LRT passenger Shannon Fischer.

"It seems like the LRT gets so packed that you honestly have to shove each other; sometimes it's so crowded that you need conductors to push people."

According to the City, Edmonton's LRT opened in April 1978, with the University station opening up in August 1992. Daily ridership at the time was 35 970 people.

While statistics are just being compiled for 2008 this fall, Geake is confident the count will show that over 50 000 people are now using the LRT

during an average weekday. While overcrowding has been problematic from the start of the school year, transit staff have been attempting to tweak the maintenance schedule to try and allow for more cars during the morning rush.

Geake explained that due to the sudden increase in its users, he believes the City has its hands tied in the short-term.

"In the long-term I think there's definitely a need for greater accessibility first of all for students, so more can use the system, and more frequency of rides."

JANELLE MORIN
SU PRESIDENT

"The thing with the rail side is that we can't fix the problem really quick. We'd like to go down and put an extra car on, but it takes about three years to get an extra car delivered," he said.

"It's not like you can walk down to your local dealership and say, 'Hey, I'd like another five cars.' They take time to produce."

But finding an acceptable solution for commuters is pending on generous financial support from the City and its taxpayers. Students' Union Science Councillor Ian Clarke points out that, while LRT ridership issues

may be a major concern of some students, increasing funds for public transit might be a tough sell for the municipal government.

"Well, obviously [the overcrowding] has gotten bad, and they obviously need to put more money into public transit. With taxes already high though, should citizens of Edmonton have increasing taxes go towards something that most of them don't use?" Clarke wondered.

Geake argued that even if the extra cars haven't arrived yet, long-term support for transit is out there.

"We've been fortunate. Council has been really supportive, and they have approved an additional eleven cars to help us fill out," he noted.

"We were able to add them onto an order for 26 that we already had in place."

However, until those cars arrive towards the end of 2009, the LRT director asks for public co-operation in minimizing any disruptions. If possible, he suggests students should try to avoid using the LRT during the AM rush between 7:15-7:45. Furthermore, if carrying a backpack, he requests students take it off and carry it or leave it by their feet.

SU President Janelle Morin thinks that there is more that the City can do in its future plans for the LRT and the rest of the transit system.

"In the long-term I think there's definitely a need for greater accessibility first of all for students, so more can use the system, and more frequency of rides so students can have more shifts of transportation that are available to them."

Federal funding for PSE needed—Layton

LAYTON • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"It's distorting [their] choices and it's actually not good for the health of Canadians because you've got five million Canadians who don't have a family doctor," he explained.

It's Layton's hope to reduce this financial burden while at the same time drastically increasing the number of family doctors in Canada.

"We are particularly focused on assistance to those who would be willing to stay as family doctors for a period of ten years," he said.

"We also want to increase the total number of doctors trained as well as the numbers of nurses trained quite dramatically—essentially a fifty per cent increase right across the country."

With this kind of promise, Layton remains conscious of the kind of funding required to keep his word.

"Of course all of this would involve federal money coming into the medical education system and some of that, no doubt, would be helpful in some of the specialties that are involved in research and that sort of activity in a university like [the U of A] which is very well known for its work in some key areas there," he explained.

If Layton is successful, the amount of funding that universities are hoping to acquire will no longer solely be a burden on the provincial governments.

"I don't think it would be our job

to put pressure on the provincial governments to spend more. What is needed is federal commitment here of real dollars. We've seen a steady decline in federal support of postsecondary education and training over a considerable period of time," he said.

It's these campaign promises and the acclaimed competitive platform yet to come that have Layton convinced that this election has provided voters with the opportunity to see change occur.

"I think its time to get off the old see-saw of going back and forth between the old parties. You're never going to move forward if you do that."

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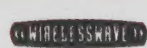
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Increase in international students at MacEwan, U of A

JENNIFER HUYGEN
Senior News Editor

Postsecondary institutions in the city of Edmonton are seeking out a place on the world map this semester, with application and enrolment numbers from international students marking a considerable rising trend.

In comparison to fall semester last year, international student applications at Grant MacEwan College witnessed a 40 per cent jump, with actual enrolment figures showing an increase of approximately seven per cent.

The expansion comes as a result of new efforts taken by MacEwan to promote their international profile, explained Dr Rick Lewis, acting director of MacEwan International.

"We've kind of been following the same routine over the last four to five years. We go and recruit to the same areas—it takes awhile to build relationships in certain countries so that's part of it," he said.

Lewis cited certain initiatives being offered that act as incentive for international students to settle and study at the College, including a postsecondary bridging program that focuses on catching up English as a Second Language students to meet admissions requirements.

"International students often lack certain admissions requirements to

get into, say, a university or college program. We have the facilities here, the programming here to allow them to complete those," he observed.

"So literally any student that wants to get into a college or a degree program—a two-or four-year program—even if they don't have the admission requirements, we can bring them in and they can complete those requirements while they're here."

MacEwan boasts a student population representing approximately 50 countries, with major markets located in China, Hong Kong, India, South Korea, and Ukraine.

University of Alberta numbers for this semester reflect a similar increase in international interest. According to Gerry Kendal, U of A Registrar, international enrolment is up about five per cent, bringing the total count of international students—undergraduate, graduate, and exchange—to 3410 as of 24 September.

John Soltice, the assistant director of international relations and recruitment at U of A International, explained in an email to the Gateway that the University is continuing to strengthen these numbers by forming partnerships with different institutions abroad.

"U of A International is engaged in strategic recruitment activities and we have an effective online



SAMBROOKS

INTERNATIONAL ACCLAIM International student enrolment has risen this year at Grant MacEwan and the University.

presence. Also, [the] U of A has agreements with partners worldwide. In 2007–2008, for instance, the U of A signed 98 agreements and memorandums of understanding with institutions in 30 countries," he said.

Soltice also drew on the fact that the University's international ranking has risen in recent years, particularly in the Shanghai Jiao Tong University annual academic rankings, where the U of A came in 106th out of 503 universities.

In terms of growth-source countries, the U of A has seen similar results as MacEwan, receiving increasing undergraduate and graduate applications from China and India, as well as Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, and Iran.

Student enrolment in programs such as engineering, environmental studies, business, and economics have been amongst those to receive the highest boost in international numbers.

Despite the heavy focus placed on

recruiting, Lewis stressed that the challenge—no matter which institution a student chooses—comes in ensuring a successful adjustment to life in a new country.

"We do have to pay attention to what we do for the students after they arrive. It's not just a matter of getting them here, it's looking after them when they get here [...] just from a living standpoint, the cultural adjustment standpoint."

Scholarship funding places emphasis on citizenship and volunteerism

GRADUATES • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"I know that grad students have that added pressure of preparing in some cases a written thesis and other cases a series of very involved papers, demonstrating their knowledge capacity, and therefore to take off a portion of that pressure and to reduce the large amount of debt they're facing."

Yet according to Whynot, while the funding marks a step in the right direction, it's difficult to measure its success as a dollar figure.

"I think the problem is that it's hard to generalize over the whole community. Money-wise, I think we do well compared to other universities in other provinces, but the problem is that in a lot of ways, it's polarized. Some disciplines have quite a lot—engineering, research," he explained.

"The funding looks pretty good on an aggregate average level, but when you get down into it, there's certain components of the community that aren't winning."

Whynot cited an unsuccessful proposal submitted by the GSA to include a fine arts scholarship valued at \$6000 to lower tuition costs during the year.

"One of the sort of interventions we tried to make [...] was to put in a proposal for a fine arts scholarship, so \$6000 relieving the cost of tuition for students in art and design, drama, music. That wasn't successful, but we're going to take another run at it, I think," he said.

He also indicated that competitive levels of scholarship funding tend to remain in flux and depend on increases and promotions in other jurisdictions.

"This is such a dynamic, competitive environment that it's hard to say what's sufficient and what's not sufficient anymore, because it may have been sufficient in the past, but if Ontario and BC and the international community or the United States boost their funding significantly, suddenly it's insufficient," Whynot noted.

One widely-received aspect of the

new funding is the introduction of a Graduate Citizenship Scholarship, with \$100 000 allotted to 50 students who demonstrate a strong record of volunteer and community activities.

According to Horner, the emphasis on citizenship came as an attempt to award students for their efforts across an entire spectrum, and not solely limited to academic or research criteria.

"I think, also from a citizenship perspective, we might want engaged and active citizens within the province, so it just made a lot of sense," he said.

Whynot agreed with the importance of rewarding community-minded individuals in graduate-level studies, explaining that the effects are not only limited to those on campus.

"The money is good, but it's only going to go to a few specific people. The larger effect of that scholarship hopefully is that it will advertise or telegraph this notion that graduate students are doing more than just hiding in libraries and laboratories."



PETE YEE

MONEY IN YOUR POCKET The provincial government recently announced an almost doubling of graduate student scholarships for research and citizenship.

Effervescent [ef-er-ves-uhnt] - adjective

- 1) Vivacious; bubbly; lively
- 2) One who volunteers for Gateway news

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Chinese art exhibit features history and culture spanning five centuries

Brilliant Strokes, now on display at the Telus Centre, highlights paintings and artifacts donated by the Mactaggart Art Collection

JUSTINE MILTON
News Writer

The University of Alberta Museums are hoping to broaden the cultural horizons of students this month with Brilliant Strokes, a unique showcase of the Mactaggart Art Collection, featuring a vast array of ancient and modern East Asian paintings and artifacts.

Located in the Telus Centre, the exhibit holds some of the exquisite pieces of several artists, some unknown, whose paintings contribute to part of the Mactaggart Collection. The over 700 pieces in total—donated by Doctors Sandy and Cécile Mactaggart—offer insight into Chinese history and culture spanning the previous five centuries.

Dr Ka Bo Tsang, a curator of Chinese painting from the Royal Ontario Museum and curator of Brilliant Strokes, explained her decisions involving the specific pieces chosen for display in the U of A's exhibit.

"Basically [these pieces] reflect the scope and the strength of the Mactaggart collection. In these paintings there are works that represent all major stylistic trends over the period of 500 years."

As she explained, three main categories of painters are identifiable in the collection from their level of experience as an artist.

"There are works by amateur painters, works by professionals, and a few works by people who did not fit into these two groups because they wanted to develop an individualistic style of their own. All the works in this

exhibition reflect these various styles."

The collection consists of textiles, paintings and handscrolls that date back to as early as the 15th century Ming dynasty, while some pieces are as current as the 20th century. According to Tsang, much of the strength of the collection lies in the artwork representative of the Qing Dynasty, the last ruling dynasty of China.

"Each piece is unique in many different ways. It gives real insight into the formats, painting media, background and training of artists, subject matter and painting styles of the Chinese culture."

DR KA BO TSANG
COLLECTION CURATOR

"The collection is strongest in court art—paintings produced by the order of the emperor—in the 18th century," she explained.

The works highlighted in Brilliant Strokes are grouped together based on the variety of brush strokes used, which in turn differentiate the value of each piece.

"In Chinese painting, the most important factor that connoisseurs would judge whether a painting is good or not is by the brush styles and the quality of the brush work," Tsang observed.

"There are many different ways of representing images, either using very controlled lines to depict the forms or using very free flowing fluctuating lines. Basically, from the brush work that a painter would choose to paint their works with, one could see which stylistic school that particular painter adhered himself to."

Tsang used this technical aspect of the art as a central theme for the exhibition, and while using pieces that might seem relatively unrelated, she emphasized their uniqueness, and at the same time, their correlation through style.

"Each piece is unique in many different ways. It gives us a real insight into the formats, painting media, background and training of artists, subject matter, and painting styles of the Chinese culture," she said.

Although the U of A already boasts a representative Chinese culture and is home to the China Institute, Tsang has hopes of further broadening the knowledge of the Chinese culture through this exhibition.

"The U of A's Museums mandate was to make collections accessible to almost everybody, especially to students [...] I hoped that this exhibition would attract the attention of the public, and after seeing this exhibition, visitors would go away with at least some knowledge of Chinese painting," she said.

Along with the paintings, several additional initiatives to help to enlighten students on campus of the Chinese culture will be held from now until the close of the exhibition in January, including Chinese-painting sessions and lectures.



JINGYI ZHANG

DYNASTIES OF ART Dr Ka Bo Tsang discusses the intricacies of one of over 700 pieces of the Mactaggart Art Collection, on display as part of Brilliant Strokes.



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University of Calgary's GSA takes steps towards ending membership with the Canadian Federation of Students

KIRSTEN GORUK
Alberta and Northern Bureau Chief

EDMONTON (CUP)—Canada's largest student lobby group has only two remaining members among postsecondary institutions in Alberta, and if the University of Calgary's Graduate Students' Association (GSA) gets their way, they're about to lose one of them.

According to GSA President Rithesh Ram, the decision to pursue leaving the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) stems from a lack of communication on the part of the national organization, as well as the feeling that their membership fees are going to waste.

"Over the years, since 2001, we've given them almost \$300 000, and a lot of the issues we have as an Albertan school aren't really represented from what we've seen in their body when we go to any of their national conferences," Ram said.

Ram attributes part of the problem to the lack of membership within Alberta.

"A lot of other Alberta schools aren't part of the CFS and we feel that we aren't being represented. These [are] issues we've brought up to them and they have refused to reform in any way, shape, or form," he said.

Melanie Thomas, CFS graduate students' representative, disagrees with Ram, and says their advocacy efforts target the issues facing grad students across the country.

"In terms of what we do at the graduate level for the advocacy side of things, [it's] definitely funding and then talking about issues like

copyright that do directly impact how graduate students do operate on a daily basis," Thomas said.

With confirmation that the GSA is taking real steps towards leaving the CFS, both sides now cite a lack of communication.

"We have tried repeatedly over the last few months [...] to get simple information," Ram said.

"We tried to get financial statements, our budget, any involvement that we've had over the last year, even finding out when their meeting dates [are]. They're pretty wary about telling their member schools what's going on in their organization."

However, Thomas claims the CFS has yet to hear anything from the GSA.

"The interesting thing about the GSA at the U of C is that we haven't really heard from them in terms of suggestions or proposed changes, reforms, or anything that they'd like to see," she said.

If the GSA is set on leaving the organization, they are going to have to keep communication open, as the process includes a time-consuming referendum and membership-review component.

"It's a democratic process and if those steps are taken, we do need to call the vote to talk to the actual members of the organization," Thomas said.

This process is just another aspect of CFS that bothers Ram.

"They make it really easy for a group to join, but they make it very difficult for you to leave [...] even if you disagree with their policies," he said.

The GSA is almost ready to present



PETEYEE

TWO WEEKS' NOTICE Ben Whynot of the U of A's GSA comments on the U of C's GSA's decision to leave the CFS.

their referendum, and from there, it passes to the CFS for deliberation, which in turn is passed to a committee consisting of both CFS and GSA members.

In the meantime, the Graduate Students' Association at the University of Alberta remains a bystander, not subscribing membership to CFS.

Ben Whynot, president of the University of Alberta's GSA, says that it's not a conscious choice on their part to avoid association.

Without passing judgment on the debate, he does encourage discussion of the issues raised.

"I think it's a good idea to have this conversation [...] have CFS makes its arguments and have the GSA make their arguments and leave it up to the students to decide," Whynot said.


Ram is also looking for students to get involved in the process. If the GSA is successful in leaving the Federation, he would look to the students for input on how best to spend the \$40 000 in usually paid membership fees.

"We're going to pose the question to the membership and ask them if they would rather have their \$6.56 back in membership fees [...] or if they feel

we should keep it and do federal lobbying on our own. Or, we also have the option of joining, for instance, [the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations]," he said, referring to another national student lobby group.

Even without the aid of CFS, he's confident that the GSA can continue to meet the advocacy needs of their students.

"If we still feel that we need that representation at the federal level, we feel that it's better to do it on our own or become part of another organization that we see eye-to-eye with."

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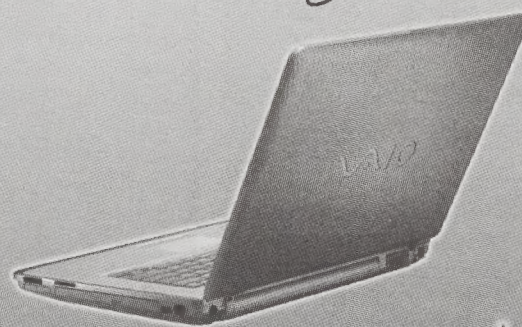
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university of alberta international



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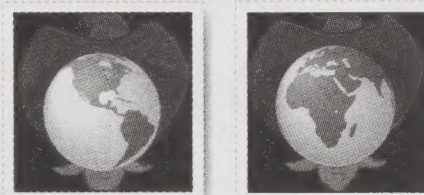


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Greenberg scandal a mutual failure

WITH THE US FEDERAL ELECTION ROLLING ahead, media outlets are relentlessly covering Barack Obama and John McCain. The *Atlantic Monthly* is one of the multiple magazines to feature McCain on their cover, and Jill Greenberg, a prominent freelance photographer whose works have been featured by publications ranging from *Harper's* to *Time Magazine* to *Wired*, was hired for the job. Greenberg, a staunch supporter of the Democrats, used the opportunity to portray McCain as an ominous figure seemingly destined to star as the next Hitchcockian psychopath. The incident has raised concerns over the limits of editorialized media, regardless of medium.

After the *Atlantic Monthly* received their cover image—a highly stylized shot that has become Greenberg's trademark—she published other altered images from the shoot on her personal website (aptly named "Manipulator"), edited to show McCain as a warmonger with a bloody shark-like mouth. The trust that's believed to be in place between photographer and subject was clearly broken through her subversive tactics. As a result, the magazine's editor has written a letter of apology to the McCain camp and has refused payment to Greenberg.

But the remaining issues are how accountable the magazine itself should be over the incident, and whether Greenberg can be held to the same ethics measurements used for photojournalists. Jill Greenberg, by all means, is a brilliant Rhode Island School of Design educated editorial and magazine photographer. However, there is a large distinction between a photojournalist and a commercial editorial photographer.

A photojournalist is expected to convey the truth of a situation using still images and present a connection to the event that is happening at a particular time and place. Commercial photographers are hired on an as-needed basis, because they offer a specific style that can be used to editorialize the content to fit the publication. So Jill Greenberg—a commercial photographer—shouldn't be held to the same standards. Commercial photographers bring with them their own biases and personalities to every shoot that they're hired for. The *Atlantic Monthly* should've known who they had hired. Outside of her impressive portfolio, she has previously exhibited a highly controversial series of images depicting crying toddlers titled "End Times." The extreme images were to represent her disapproval of the Bush administration, among other issues.

All of the blame can't be singlehandedly placed on Greenberg, as the *Atlantic Monthly* should be held equally accountable. Knowingly hiring a photographer with a record of being so openly anti-Republican to photograph the party's nominee is ignorant, naïve, and irresponsible. The images shouldn't have made it past the editors in the first place if the magazine didn't want them viewed. It's routine for the editors to receive the images before they end up back in the photographer's hands during commercial shoots. If the *Atlantic* were somewhat responsible, they would have recognized the underlying meaning behind the additional images, and wouldn't have negotiated a deal with Greenberg to allow her to relicense said photographs.

In the end, both parties are in the wrong. Jill Greenberg for letting bias overshadow her professional integrity; the *Atlantic Monthly*, for either not doing their homework, or purposely ignoring the facts presented to them. Ironically, both parties come out on the winning end. Jill Greenberg will become more of a household name, and the *Atlantic* will likely sell more magazines. Maybe this is the way they intended it to be, as they dance towards the polls with the donkey burning bright—interestingly enough, the magazine owner's wife is on record as a major contributor to the Obama campaign.

PETE YEE
Photo Editor

PCs need firewall

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List not password protected
Smooth moves, sysadmins

LUCAS WAGNER
Online Editor



ANTONY TA

LETTERS

Tuition payment system far from perfect

I would almost have to disagree with Minister Horner when he stated that tuition is only one portion of affordability and that Student Finance has done a lot on improving the system (re: "4.1 per cent tuition hike expected," 23 September). As he stated, tuition is not the only expense we have as students, but it is the only one that the Government of Alberta can directly influence that does not effect many other people.

Rent, for example, has limited increases, yet the government would not freeze increases without every landlord raising hell over it. Yet freezing tuition is something that the government has done in the past and other provinces, like Quebec, have as a standard policy. They do not control the cost of books, or the mandatory meal plans, or the printing costs.

These are costs that the government does not control but blame when students say education is not affordable. Horner also stated that they lowered the interest rate on student loans. Yes, this will be very helpful, however, few students have to pay back large portions of their Alberta Loan thanks to back end remission. Plus, the Canada Student Loan, approximately 60 per cent of

one's assistance, still has a rate at prime plus 2.5 per cent. That is why a 4.1 per cent tuition hike is not a good thing. Could it be worse? Yes, but it could be a lot better.

JON MASTEL
Arts III

Secularism no different from religious preference

I suppose there is really no nice way to say this, so I'll just come out and say it: Ian Bushfield, in his article (re: "There's no 'God' in Graduation," 16 September), is being hypocritical.

I can understand that removal of the reference to God may be needed, since it's true that many people don't believe in God, and their beliefs should be respected as much as anyone else's. Yet, while saying that keeping the reference to God is discriminatory, he freely bandies about such notions as religious people living "in fear" of a God, and referring to the religious aspects of the university's history as its "dark-aged roots." How can one be think he truly favours tolerance and equality when he can't even show respect for religious beliefs?

He also shows very little understanding about the workings of Canadian society. Unlike America, we don't have a "separation of church and state" as such, we have more of a notion that one religion should not be given preference or predominance in a public

institution. Secularism is merely the simplest way to make sure no one religion is predominant in the public sphere.

Though this isn't always the case in practice, as forcing secular ideals on everyone is surely no better than forcing religious ideals. Yet—as Bushfield's outspoken disdain for religion shows—the beliefs and values of religious people are rarely given as much consideration as secular values.

Perhaps if Bushfield is concerned about equality, he should start with himself. He probably wouldn't like the Bible reference, but I think Jesus' advice stands in this case—"you need to take the plank out of your own eye before you can get the speck out of someone else's."

SHEILA KWASEK
Arts II

Letters to the editor should be sent to letters@gateway.ualberta.ca (no attachments, please).

The Gateway reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity, and to refuse publication of any letter it deems racist, sexist, libelous, or otherwise hateful in nature. The Gateway also reserves the right to publish letters online.

Letters to the editor should be no longer than 350 words, and should include the author's name, program, year of study, and student identification number to be considered for publication.

LETTERS FROM THE ARCHIVES

Sports sections only appeals to troglodytes

From the point of view of a student of the literary arts, the *Gateway* is totally inadequate.

The kind of worthless padding that surfaces on the sports pages should be dispatched forthwith. In its place one should be able to find commentary on the societal importance of literature, offerings of poetry and prose, and insight into the special place the literary arts hold on this campus.

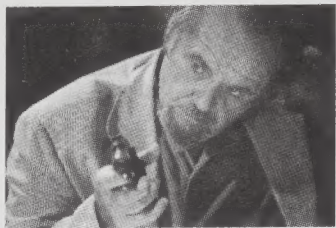
The sports section caters to an intellectually inadequate elite, pandered by monetary gifts from the administration, and should be withdrawn.

J W KIDNEY
12 October, 1978

From the Archives is a semi-regular feature where the *Gateway* runs historical letters that we feel are of particular importance—or are just really hilarious.

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I want my environment to be a product of me."*

— Frank Costello

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Voting will occur by preferential secret ballot, and the elected representatives will be notified no later than 24 hours after the voting has closed.

All members (i.e., those with five or more Gateway contributions in the 365 days prior to 2 October and who have registered for membership with a Gateway editor) are asked to attend. If you have made five or more contributions to the Gateway in the 365 days prior to 2 October and would like to become a member, please contact the Editor-in-Chief at eic@gateway.ualberta.ca. This meeting is also open to the public.

For more information, including the requirements of the position, please contact Gateway Editor-in-Chief Mike Kendrick at eic@gateway.ualberta.ca

Care or don't, but drop the facade

Forget about a "slacker uprising"; armchair activists should remain seated



CODY
CIVIERO

A certain contemporary yuppie trend is making me wish more and more that people were simply honest about their apathy: the rise in popularity of "armchair activism." Pretending to care about social issues has become a fad, rather than an ethical or political issue. This has consequentially spawned hordes of politically valueless people who are looking for painless, bargain-basement methods of putting on such a front.

Facebook groups dedicated to social issues exemplify this, in terms of ease of "protest," lack of actual financial of labourly support, and obnoxious public display of pseudo-activism. Being a member of something along the lines of a "RIP Virginia Tech victims" group is apparently even too much of a strain for many people after a few months, as mass exoduses end up popping up in the news feed.

Bumper stickers at least cost a few bucks, but their in-your-face nature make them substantially more contemptible. Although this insidious and obnoxious display of self-conscious assholery hasn't achieved quite the same popularity in Canada as the States, I have to cringe at the sight of them each time they pop into view. Political wristbands, those mercifully

out-of-fashion ribbons, and ironic Che Guevara t-shirts (being generous and assuming the wearers actually know who he is), also fall into this category. Even "Vote for Pedro" shirts are less annoying.

Aside from Facebook groups and cheap, overbearing political statements to prominently display, obligatory hours or (gasp) a single day of easy activism are a popular way for people to convince themselves that they aren't terrible human beings.

People engaging in such activities are being given a pass, and I encourage others to call them out on it. If it doesn't require time, money, or effort, it isn't something to be proud or boastful of.

"Buy Nothing Day," "Earth Hour," and campaigns to not buy gas from certain companies for a particular 24 hours have all received significant attention. Notice that these all involve people temporarily not doing something for an inconsequential period of time instead of actually doing something that requires effort. Rather than changing their habitual tendencies to consume and waste, they can give themselves a self-congratulatory pat on the back for laying on a couch for a brief period of time. The only

thing bullshit protests like that help are egos.

The list of slacktivist tactics goes on: Internet petitions, complaining loudly in coffee shops, and benefit concerts with disposable cups and musicians flying in on private jets from around the world, have all been used extensively. But the only thing each of these masturbatory methods has in common, besides the previously noted ease, is that they have absolutely no effect or influence on social change whatsoever.

Not giving a flying fuck about environmental issues or starving children in Africa is at least more respectable than ineptly pretending that you do. Vulgar and flippant jacking off over the issues actively undermines their legitimacy. Even worse is the fact that most people seem to know of how absurd these techniques are, even if they don't want to acknowledge it. People engaging in such activities are being given a pass, and I encourage others to call them out on it. If it doesn't require time, money, or effort, it isn't something to be proud or boastful of.

To all of the slacktivists out there; go ahead, drive home in your gas-guzzler and, after buying something useless and heavily packaged along the way, sit around on your couches, eat copious amounts of heavily processed food, and watch *American Idol*. Just don't put in half-assed and obnoxious "efforts" to pretend that you care. Instead of looking socially conscious and sympathetic, armchair activists project the opposite image: that they are completely and utterly full of shit.

Self-defense about caution, not violence



CORY
TOKAY

"Whether you're keeping your eyes open to spot potential danger, or taking your headphones out so you can hear better, paying attention to your surroundings helps you tell if anything poses a threat. And if you notice someone who you think is threatening you, be smart about it."

As the recent sexual assaults in the Garneau area have made frighteningly clear, the world can be a dangerous place. One thing that's nearly as dangerous as a potential attacker is trusting myths and rumours to teach you how to defend yourself. Self-defence isn't about being bigger, stronger, or better armed than an attacker; it's about being smart.

Many people don't seem to realize that martial arts, fighting, and self-defence are three different things: Martial arts use fighting techniques to teach focus and discipline (many of which can also be used to defend yourself), fighting is some kind of violent conflict, and self-defence is taking steps to protect yourself from harm.

If you're attacked, it's possible that you can be hurt, or even killed, so you have to carefully consider how to defend yourself. Weapons are a popular option, but it can be just as dangerous to carry one as to go unarmed. Regardless of whether or not they're legal, there are a few things to keep in mind with self-defence objects.

The first thing to consider is whether or not you know how to use it. All weapons, from a simple can of pepper spray to a samurai katana, require skill, training, and practice to be used effectively. A two minute explanation from a store clerk, or a couple

paragraphs from an online article aren't enough instruction to properly use such objects. Anyone who thinks otherwise has a false sense of security, and is gambling with their life.

But even if you do choose to carry some kind of weapon, it won't be surgically attached to your hand. If you're attacked, not only can you lose your weapon, but your attacker can take it and use it against you.

However, before you can even worry about how the weapon will be used, you have to get to it. Attacks can happen in a split second and you don't have time, no matter how quick you are, to reach into your pocket or rummage through your purse. Even if you know how to use it, it won't do you any good if you can't get to it.

I'm not saying weapons don't work—if used properly they can be quite effective. I am saying that when used incorrectly, they are a liability. Even when used correctly, they aren't a perfect solution. Weapons aren't a perfect self-defence method, but to tell the truth: there isn't one.

But while there may not be a perfect self-defence method, there are ways you can make yourself safer. Travel in groups, don't take stupid chances, and be aware. If you're with a group of people, it's harder for an attacker to pick out single targets. If you're going

out, bring friends, if you're on campus late, use Safewalk.

While groups help, there may still be times when you're alone. If that happens, you shouldn't become paranoid—just be cautious. If something, like walking down a dark alley, feels stupid, then don't do it.

Finally, be aware. Whether you're keeping your eyes open to spot potential danger or taking your headphones out so you can hear better, paying attention to your surroundings helps you tell if anything poses a threat. And if you notice someone who you think is threatening you, be smart about it. Keep your distance from them and look for someone who can help you. Find a police officer, ask a store clerk to call security, alert the bouncer; there's nothing wrong with asking the people we pay to protect us to do their jobs.

Self-defence isn't learned overnight; it takes ongoing practice. But if you're smart about what choices you make, protecting yourself from harm becomes a little easier. And if you're still worried about personal safety, make the right choice: do something about it. There are many forms of self-defence, from martial arts to weekend seminars. And while there may not be a perfect self-defence solution, being prepared and being aware can help you stay safer in a world that seems full of danger.



The Arctic circle of strife

CONAL
PIERSE



There are those who would claim that the Canadian military is so miniscule and ill-equipped as to be nearly obsolete; that, on the world stage, we are now the equivalent of the valiant Polish cavalry, swinging our swords at heavily armoured tanks. But now, in light of Harper's latest plan for strengthening Canada's Arctic sovereignty claims, you can just go right on saying the same thing, because his suggestions are ridiculous.

The strategy in question, this masterstroke of military genius that will force the world to take our Arctic claims seriously, involves creating a massive northern regiment—by which I mean stationing 100 poor souls in the middle of a frigid nowhere. While this strategy is arguably brilliant in Risk where the Russians can only threaten you by way of Kamchatka, it doesn't quite translate to modern warfare. In effect, all this gesture demonstrates is that the Canadian military is as pathetic as we have been led to believe and that, were Russia to actually attempt to invade Canadian Arctic turf, all we'd be able to do is have a frostbitten ranger radio home with the bad news.

This isn't to say that I think we shouldn't attempt, in some way or other, to protect all that precious frozen oil and gas. Though Canada has a legitimate claim (or, at least, just as legitimate as Russia, Denmark, and everywhere else that has a steady market for mittens) to Arctic resources, establishing a pitiful reserve isn't going to help in this fight. For all the good that 100 soldiers will do in this area, we might as well just mount cameras on polar bears. They'll be just as informative, and nearly twice as deadly—besides, unlike their human counterparts, they'll be able to smell those vodka-soaked Ruskies from over 20 miles away.

But while we could send more and more soldiers on a mission to nowhere, resigning them

to a frozen nightmare with naught but guns and good wishes (which, I'll admit, is a good setting for numerous horror and suspense films) the best way we can protect our arctic claim isn't through military means, but environmental policy.

Before now, Arctic resources have gone untouched because mining and drilling were deemed too risky. However, due to increasing global temperatures and the subsequent expansion of northern shipping lanes, harvesting this large stockpile of resources is starting to look feasible. Were these new Arctic alleyways to tighten up once more, though it would increase the risk and cost of resource acquisition, which will decrease interest in the region.

For all the good that 100 soldiers will do in this area, we might as well just mount cameras on polar bears.

By putting our money and efforts into reducing our environmental impact, we'll be setting an example for other nations to follow, which will combat this whole "global warming" boogeyman that's currently plaguing our generation, and once again the Arctic will become a hellish frozen desert populated only by scientists and elves. This is effectively the "taking your ball home" strategy, only instead of taking anything home you're leaving your ball exactly where it was and surrounding it with an uninhabitable wasteland of ice.

By fighting the Russians on the environmental rather than military front, we'll be creating a better future for our children, both in the sense that the planet's climate will be more stable and that they won't be forced to serve in "volunteer" regiments of northern protectors. What's more, repairing the damage to northern ice flows will help to replenish polar bear populations, once again filling the region with silent, white terrors, hungry for Russian flesh. This way, we can stack our cannons in Alaska and Greenland, effectively staving off the red swarm—and that's a solution without any risk.

Hung out to dry by ridiculous laundry-hampering obstacles

DAVID
JOHNSTON



I've noticed that my bedroom is getting smaller. It started in subtle ways, like having to squeeze to get through the door, or fetching items from my top shelf without a stepstool. Then, one morning, I banged my head on the ceiling as I got out of bed. As I looked down at my new multicoloured carpet that was three feet thicker than usual, I suddenly realized: it was time to do laundry for the month.

Doubtless, every undergrad the world over has experienced this problem. Growing up in an upper-lower-middle class family, washing machines were always just sort of there, perching in the background. Watching, like cats or the CIA. And you never had to think about them; you just washed your clothes and went away and that was that. Or if you were lazy, your mother did it for you—at least until I turned 19, and thought "wow, I'm never going to get a girlfriend, am I?"

But once you move out on your own, like I did this summer, laundry suddenly becomes a critical matter. Not like boring things such as rent or food, but like global warming. You can put it off for a while by fishing out the least-wrinkled shirts and re-wearing them, but eventually, your clothes acquire the approximate density of steel wool and the odour of several dozen musk oxen in heat. Not even Right Guard can save them. And then the laundry bell doth toll.

In our apartment, the laundry room is located several hundred yards down the winding corridor, but at least it's in the same building. My neighbor mentioned that when she moved in last year, they never told her about the nearby laundry room and she ended up walking a round trip

of 2.1km through the snow and down staircases and over the snake pit until she finally arrived, twelve-pounds of clothing in tow, at an "Out Of Order" sign.

Luckily, I found the closer room with no problem, although the washing machine was a trial. They don't accept money. What they do accept is a little magic card, although you can't load money onto the card in the laundry room itself. How dumb would that be? Ha ha! No, what you need to do is follow a map across two parking lots and through a series of interlocking doors until you find the tiny VCR-sized card machine that lets you load money onto your card, though only if you have debit, and only from certain banks, and only if you answer the three riddles of the rat emperor. Oh, and all the doors lock behind you, like you're in a horror movie and the card machine is suddenly going to extend tentacles and extract your kidneys.

I don't mind that they lock doors though, because there's a lot of laundry theft that goes on. Specifically, a lot of theft that's done by me. People are always leaving one or two items in the washer and I don't notice when I load my clothes in on top, and they just get absorbed into my mass o' socks. That's the best explanation for how I wound up with a size four aquamarine lace thong in my basket. Perhaps it belongs to my neighbor, although I can't check because she hasn't gotten back from her latest expedition to the card machine. I'm fearing the worst.

But money and mixups and murder aside, my laundry troubles have been relatively minor. I haven't even had any *I Love Lucy*-style mishaps where I load too much soap into the washer and the entire floor is transformed into some kind of "Happy Bubble Land Amusement Park." No, what happens in my case if I overload the soap is that the machines lock up and refuse to relinquish my jeans until I give them another four dollars. Which entails another cross-building odyssey.

You know, I hear nudism is making a comeback.

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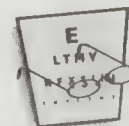
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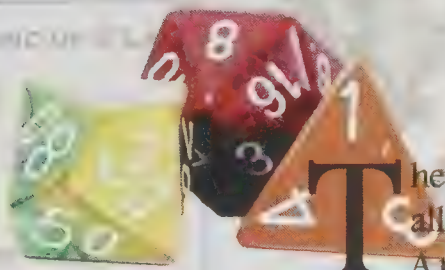
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Dungeon Crawling for Dummies

Written by David "The Bard" Johnson
and Mike "The Paladin" Kendall
Photographed by Pete "The Barbarian" Pugh
Illustrated by Conal "The Sorcerer" Pugh



The room is cool with the chill of stale air, untouched for centuries by all but the long-forgotten ghosts who now roam the cobbled hallways. A massive wooden door creaks as a band of adventurers use their combined might to move its ancient form from the intricately-carved stonework frame. Torch light pierces the darkness, and the crack of sinewy tension echoes off the vaulted ceilings as the cloaked figure in the group readies his bow. A voice speaks—distant, invisible, but completely omniscient, commanding the group with three simple words: "Roll for Initiative."

What you need to play DnD

- ◆ Rulebooks (Player's Handbook, Monster Manual, and Dungeon Master's Guide are the big three)
- ◆ Paper / Character Sheets
- ◆ Pencils (NOT pens)
- ◆ Dice (maybe not the d12, because who uses it anyway?)
- ◆ A Tabletop
- ◆ A Grid and Miniatures (optional, if you're not anal about rules)
- ◆ Imagination

Dungeons & Dragons, or "DnD" as the pros call it, is a game of adventure and creativity. It's simple to pick up, and requires few materials, but allows players to experience—quite literally—any encounter that their imaginations are capable of concocting.

The game is played co-operatively by a handful of individuals who form a group, or "party," and engage in a variety of situations from dungeon crawling to diplomacy. That's probably one of the first misconceptions about the game: that it's all about slaying dragons. In fact, battles are only one part of the incredibly deep and diverse game, and the kinds of encounters that the party experiences are all carried out at the discretion of the dungeon master.

Though it may sound ominous, the DM is just another person who acts as one part storyteller, one part improviser, and one part referee, controlling the events that players experience and the outcomes of their choices. Much of this is achieved through a script—a game plan of how the adventure will play out—though that script needs to be completely malleable to the actions of the characters. While the basic plot and events are (mostly) preconceived, any

event that involves some element of chance or luck on a character's behalf is determined by the roll of one of many oddly-shaped, multi-faced dice.

In general, in order to be successful in one of these actions, the number that the player rolls—most commonly with a 20-sided die, or "d20"—must be higher than either a predetermined constant (such as climbing a knotted rope) or another character's roll, be it someone else in the party, or a non-player character (NPC) controlled by the DM. The difficulty check (DC) is roughly proportional to the action's relative difficulty, too. Mounting a horse, for example, would only require a roll if your character has no experience in doing so, and is much too small to be riding the horse in the first place—for instance, a gnome would have a particularly hard time attempting to ride a bear. However, firing an arrow behind you while on horseback, then leaping from the beast's haunches only to land skillfully on your feet has a much higher level of difficulty, and as such, you'll need to make a much more impressive roll lest you end up in a heap on the ground with your bow unceremoniously wrapped around your neck.

Characters are created and tracked on character sheets—just a few pieces of paper with charts and grids for vital statistics. This covers everything from physical appearance to skills, spells, and inventory. There are six primary stats, though, that determine much of what your character is able to do:

Strength (STR)	Represents your power and brutishness. "A high STR helps Billy the Fighter punch the goblin in the face."
Dexterity (DEX)	Represents your nimbleness and reflexes. "A low DEX means Billy the Fighter couldn't dodge the spitting cobras."
Constitution (CON)	Represents your durability and fortitude. "After eating the RATT burger, Billy the Fighter was glad for his high CON."
Intelligence (INT)	Represents your brainpower and memory. "Because of his moderate INT, Billy the Fighter barely passed the driving test."
Wisdom (WIS)	Represents your street-smarts and perception. "Billy the Fighter's low WIS means he didn't notice the dragon until after it had eaten him."
Charisma (CHA)	Represents your attractiveness and persuasion. "If Billy the Fighter boosted his CHA, he'd get laid more—especially by NPCs with low INT."

The higher your primary stats, the more proficient you'll be in given situations. While a barbarian requires a high STR and CON to burst through a room of hungry goblins, a rogue could use his higher DEX to sneak through the shadows, or his CHA to trick the goblins with clever disguise.



The Dungeon Master

DAVID JOHNSTON

First DnD Character: Lios the Half-Elf Rogue with a trigger-finger crossbow, a psychic lizard, and a pathological fear of plastic explosives.

First Campaign: Save the druid's apple grove from hyena-men!

Favoured Class: Bard

I first got into DnD a few years ago when my friend Eric convinced a bunch of us to come play a session or two. That turned into a few intense weeks hunched over a basement table, as we rescued a princess, beat up some goblins, and watched as our klutzy monk ineffectually tossed throwing stars into the walls for the hundredth time. And then we started getting schedule conflicts, so we all went our separate ways and that was that.

But it wasn't long before I, with my comparative loads of experience, began acting as Dungeon Master for my inexperienced brother and his friends in a surprisingly lucid and long-lasting campaign, in that we met weekly for about a year and a half. So while I picked up the role of DM almost by accident, I ended up learning a fair amount about it, mostly through trial and error.

Summarizing all of DnD in a paragraph is like summarizing the work of David Lynch: confusingly hard. It's a fantasy-role-playing table-top game with a decidedly knights-and-wizards bent. You wander through adventures, fighting monsters, collecting magic items, solving puzzles, getting stronger, and maybe even saving all of humanity every once in awhile. And your character's successes or failures depend both on your logic skills, your DM's kindness, and the roll of the dice.

The DM has to guide the Player Characters through the various missions, setting the scene, playing the monsters, and always, always making the PCs think they're in

control. Most of the time, of course, they're not, but if they feel like they are, then the campaign will be that much more intense.

It's hard work—being a DM is not the glamorous and lucrative job that it at first appears to be. You need to work hard, plan hard, and be able to think on your feet. I can't tell you how many times I've looked at my notes as my PCs burst through the door to the climactic boss fight after toiling through hours

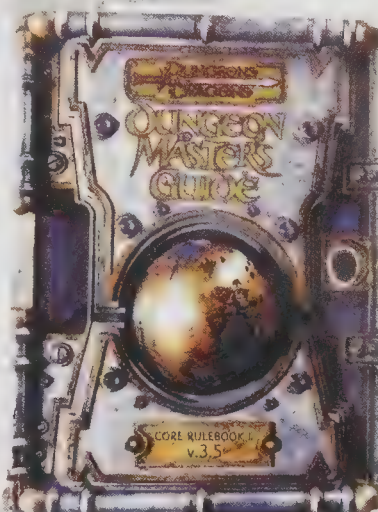
of intense, action-packed dungeon-crawling, and found a note scrawled at 3am that morning saying "FILL IN BOSS LATER."

Another big problem is getting too attached to your PCs so that you don't want to kill them. Death is a large (though not undefeatable) obstacle in DnD, and refusing to let the players fall into mortal peril can make even the best adventure seem contrived and deus ex machina'd into nonsense. You have to learn to live by the dice, win or lose. (The antithesis to

this is the DM who relishes the chance to kill off the PCs at every opportunity, usually out of unresolved daddy issues.)

But it's a unique experience, unlike so many other cut-and-paste RPGs on the market today. The way I see it, any game where you can have a party fighting giant phase spiders whose dimensional transportations keep sucking themselves and the players and arrows and staircases into alternate realities until the battlefield resembles a cracked-out MC Escher painting is worth playing in my books.

Yes, that actually happened.



The Newbie

MIKE KENDRICK

First DnD Character: Sir Khanhaas Schesbourger, a noble paladin torn between service to his order and the duties of his family.

First Campaign: Rescue the kidnapped orphans from the evil cult!

Favoured Class: Paladin (so far)

Dungeons & Dragons is the kind of game I thought I'd never get into. Though I've always been a video-game geek, DnD was just a bit too deep in the stigma of basement-dwelling troglodytes reeking of cheetos and Mountain Dew for my nerd-confidence. Plus, the fantasy thing never really tickled my fancy, even after watching and enjoying all three Lord of the Rings movies.

That changed, however, after a gruelling three years spent playing World of Warcraft. A game I had dabbled with out of curiosity, WoW instantly sucked me in to the slot-machine-esque addictiveness and apparent social atmosphere. But as with any video game, it has its limitations.

The world is huge, there's plenty to do, and countless hours to waste, but at the end of the day, I realized I was just repeating the same motions over and over.

This summer, several of my buddies suddenly began to express interest in DnD. A couple of our other friends had been playing for years, and finally, our curiosities were

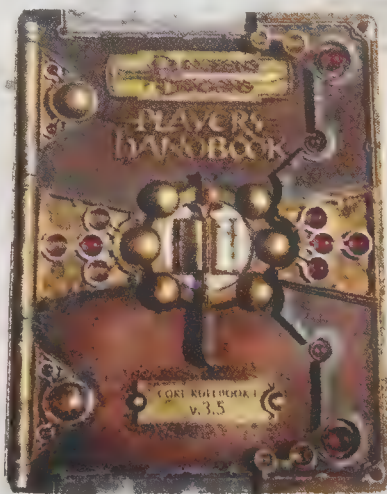
piqued. We scheduled a meeting time, piled around our dinner table, and listened with wide-eyed awe as our DM explained to us the simple complexities of character creation and game mechanics.

The biggest surprise to me came in learning

of the division between how much of the play time is spent with the mechanics themselves (or, "meta-gaming") and how much takes place through storytelling and imagination. At first, it was difficult to grasp how a so-called "game" could take place with so few pieces. A common rookie mistake is to look at DnD as a board game or a primitive video game. However, because so little of the game relies on a strict,

absolute set of rules, and so much more of it is determined by the improvisation of the DM and players alike, it offers a completely new and refreshing experience from anything the likes of World of Warcraft bring to the table.

Plus, you get to hang out with real people in real life.



"No Mr Bond, I expect you to die"

ROLE-PLAYING WITH THE D20 SYSTEM

Interested in the game play of DnD, but still turned off by the fantasy setting?

The d20 system is just as flexible as the rest of the game. Developed in 2000 for the third major release of DnD, the d20 system has been adapted for use in all manner of games. Various alternate rulebooks can be found in most comic book stores that follow the d20 system taking place in outer space, the swashbuckling pirate-infested seas, or even a game set in a mundane office building. Example:

PC: I make a pot of coffee!

DM: Make a Coffee Check!

roll, roll

PC: I got a 19!

DM: That is some excellent coffee

Riveting stuff.

The core mechanic has even taken root in the digital realm, forming the basis for video games like *Neverwinter Nights* and *Star Wars: Knights of the Old Republic*.



Tips for DMs

TWO CARDINAL RULES OF PROPER DMING:

- 1) Plan out absolutely everything in advance. You need to have an answer in case a trigger-happy player suddenly announces "That barmaid looks suspicious! I whip out my broadsword and slice her in two!"
- 2) Be prepared to throw out absolutely everything you've prepared in case the PCs, say, decide NOT to go into the Dark Castle Of Foreboding Mystery and instead decide to go shopping for pretty hats.

If something seems broken or mechanically impossible, it's probably (but not always) because you're calculating it wrong. When we realized that our ranger's greatbow was doing approximately as much damage as four catapults every round, we figured someone had screwed up the addition at some point. Which was what had happened, though our ranger insisted she was just really strong.

One problem when Dungeon Masters play the game as PCs is that we tend to power-game; we know the mechanics so well that we can usually find ludicrously effective solutions to every problem a lesser

DM tries to throw at us. Like when I abused the wording of the second-level spell "Disquietude," and rendered an army of saber-toothed tigers afraid to attack any of us. My DM got pissed, but she couldn't touch me.

It's important to match the tone of the game with the attitude of the players. If you have a group of players who want to play seriously and level up their heroes and save the world, then your campaign should give them that. If you have a group of players who want to perform spontaneous musical numbers in the middle of combat, well, then you should get out your sheet music.

All of this may sound daunting for a first-timer, but at its roots, *Dungeons & Dragons* is as simple or as complex as you want it to be. Because of its incorporeal nature, the rules are flexible, and both the DM and players can adapt the conventions as needed to their given situation. Some prefer the traditional grid-based combat system where every move is meticulously tracked and every player is constrained to a five-foot square. Others prefer a more open-ended narrative, where actions are spoken as part of a

story, and the rigid barriers of the grid are more relaxed. The world of DnD is whatever you want it to be, and is the kind of game that anyone can pick up—the only limits are your own imagination.

As a side note, it's worth mentioning that the mechanics referenced here are based on version 3.5 of *Dungeons & Dragons*. Though the fourth edition was recently released, the authors by and large prefer the previous version for its depth, and unlike v4.0, it's not a tabletop clone of *World of Warcraft*.

SOCIAL INTERCOURSE

Deadmau5

Thursday, 25 September at 9pm
Edmonton Events Centre (8882-170 St)
\$21-31.50 at ticketmaster.ca

Proving that Mickey isn't the only rodent built to entertain, Deadmau5 (pronounced dead mouse) is the one-man show of Joel Zimmerman. Even though he may not drive a steamboat and harbour a deep resentment for Peg-Leg Pete, this versatile varmint can handle himself on a synthesizer just fine.

His name—and creepy onstage mouse mask—reportedly came from a run-in with a mouse. Unfortunately, the mouse took refuge inside his computer, succumbed to the rigours of life, and took stinky revenge from beyond the grave. However, neither Zimmerman nor his beats seem as listless as his namesake.

Shoot on Sight

Directed by Jag Mundhra
Starring Naseeruddin Shah, Greta Scacchi, and Om Puri
Garneau Theatre (8712-109 St)
Opens Friday, 26 September

Is it a crime to be a Muslim? The answer seems obvious, but it's one that the war on terror and rampant Islamophobia has complicated.

Shoot On Sight poses that initial question and explores its effects on the life of one man Tariq Ali (Naseeruddin Shah), a Muslim and a London Metropolitan Police Officer. Ali is forced to face the newfound implications of his heritage after 9/11 in the face of Operation Kratos, the Police's "shoot-to-kill" policy when dealing with suspected terrorists on London's subways. A volatile fuse is lit when an innocent Muslim man is killed and Ali must combat growing suspicion from his own co-workers.

Alice Cooper

Psycho-Drama Tour 2008
Saturday, 27 September at 8pm
Jubilee Auditorium (11455-87 Ave)
\$59.50 at ticketmaster.ca

If a zombie-eyed, beat-bouncing, man-sized mouse doesn't satiate your weekly quest for the macabre, Alice Cooper will probably be able to top you off.

The glamorous, vaudevillian rocker is sure to turn the Jubilee Auditorium from respected concert hall to dingy pit of blood-curdling horror for the duration of his stay in Edmonton. Since 1971, the man has invented and refined the musical genre of shock rock, become hopelessly addicted to alcohol, earned praise from nearly every musical peer imaginable, become hopelessly addicted to golf, and still found the time to release 25 studio albums. Just imagine what he can do with a few hours of your time, a microphone, and a live boa constrictor wrapped around his neck.

Kevin Smith

Sunday, 28 September at 9pm
Winspear Center (99 St and 102 Ave)
\$49.50-69.50 at the Winspear Centre Box Office (winspearcentre.com)

It might have been years since you ogled him on the silver screen, but it seems self-proclaimed slacker Kevin Smith can still draw a crowd.

The screenwriter, writer, actor, director, and renowned comic book nut will be doing a Q&A session and general shit-shooting with fans. It's the perfect night for if you've ever wondered how he thought of *Clerks* or why he thought of *Clerks 2*.

SEAN STEELS
Under his umbrella (ella, ella, eh)



Bad Santa tries to be a good soldier

Despite his role as a G-man in *Eagle Eye*, Billy Bob Thornton staunchly advocates personal privacy

filmpreview

Eagle Eye

Directed by DJ Caruso
Starring Shia LaBeouf, Michelle Monaghan, Billy Bob Thornton, and Michael Chiklis
Opens 26 September

KRISTINA DE GUZMAN
Arts & Entertainment Staff

Having just worked with rising young star Shia LaBeouf in the DJ Caruso film *Eagle Eye*, it's only natural to ask Billy Bob Thornton what his advice is for the young folks who want a piece of the Hollywood pie. Thornton's response reveals that, at heart, his ideas jive more with the world of theatre than that of Hollywood.

"One thing that I think is the most important is to learn the history of what you're going into, whether it's movies, music, or whatever," Thornton stresses. "It gives you a real foundation. It makes it easier to talk to the people you're trying to break in with."

While admitting that he's been unable to sit still during plays in the past, it seems questionable given Thornton's next piece of advice for the aspiring actor.

"I started out in a theatre group. That's not a bad idea because you meet a lot of people. It's easier to get into a theatre group than it is into a movie."

Starring in an action-filled, Matrix-type flick like *Eagle Eye* is not something that Thornton is accustomed to. In the past, he's stuck predominantly with comedies or dramas, having won an Oscar for Best Writing for *Sling Blade*, and is a two-time Oscar nominee for Best Actor—again, for *Sling Blade*—and Best Supporting Actor for 2008's *A Simple Plan*.

Having mostly been in character-based films in the past, Thornton puts considerable emphasis on screenplay when he's deciding on what

projects to work on.

What Thornton likes to see in an action film is a well-written script and for him, *Eagle Eye* happens to have just that element.

"A lot of action-drama scripts are pretty standard. You kind of just out-guess [the writers] while you're reading it," Thornton notes. "[*Eagle Eye's*] script is actually very sound. For a big movie, this is one of the [most] well-written ones I've ever come in contact with."

"A lot of people assume I play the bad guys. I mean, I played one in *One False Move* and I play an asshole in *School for Scoundrels*. And in *Bad Santa*, I end up being not so bad—but I haven't done that much."

BILLY BOB THORNTON
ACTOR, *EAGLE EYE*

The film follows two strangers accused of being terrorists as they subsequently try to clear their names, and Thornton plays the FBI agent searching for the truth. While the actor received some tips from a real FBI agent in preparing for the role, he struggled a bit trying to relate to it.

"You try to put some of yourself into every character, so you just try to play it as if you were one of those guys. If I were an FBI guy, that's the way I would be," Thornton admits. "Initially, I didn't relate that much to the character, so I kind of had to learn my way into it. A lot of the times, I'm the guy being chased by the FBI as opposed to being the FBI guy. There are elements to the character [that I relate to]—being overwhelmed and looking for something that he's not quite sure what it is. I've felt that way plenty of times."

The film, which evokes an Orwellian atmosphere in the name of national security, touches on one of Thornton's fears. While the actor can't quite put himself in the shoes of an FBI agent, he can undoubtedly relate to the discomfort of being watched as technology plays an increasing role in people's lives.

"I don't [support sacrificing privacy for national security]. I'm big on privacy, so it's something that really creeps me out," says Thornton. "I can definitely confirm that [privacy is becoming a dying right of sorts]. I've experienced it in my own life. I think there is way too much access these days. I think technology has stolen our privacy."

Apparently, Thornton is the kind of person who lives by his words. While he admits to using technology when it comes to his work as a musician, his use of simplifying gadgets in his personal life is only sparing at best.

"I only got a cell phone two years ago, and I couldn't tell you how to take a picture on it or anything. I don't really use a computer. A lot of people in my life [do], so I beg them to help me send an email," laughs Thornton.

It's a bit unfathomable, given the bad-boy label Hollywood has placed on the actor—which has gone as far as to mislead many people to believe that he has a tendency of playing villains over heroes.

Thornton, however, is somewhat puzzled by the assumption. Shortly after he dismisses rumours of being cast as Freddy Krueger in the upcoming remake of *The Nightmare on Elm Street*, he points out that he hasn't typically been cast in antagonistic roles.

"A lot of people assume I play the bad guys. I mean, I played one in *One False Move* and I play an asshole in *School for Scoundrels*. And in *Bad Santa*, I end up being not so bad, but I haven't done that much. But yeah, there is something appealing about [those roles]. They're usually pretty interesting characters. A lot of the time, they're more interesting than the hero."



Gall's adaptation doesn't leave fans *Waiting for Godot*

The Roxy Theatre's version of Beckett's theatrical masterpiece mixes dark comedy with commentary on today's political atmosphere

theatrepreview

Alias Godot
Directed by Bradley Moss
Written by Brendan Gall
Starring Julian Arnold, Brian Dooley, Collin Doyle, James Hamilton, and Christopher Schulz
23 September-12 October at 8pm (Tuesday-Saturday) and 2pm (Sunday)
Roxy Theatre (10708-124 St)
\$21-23 for students at tixonthesquare.com

SARAH MALIK
Entertainment Staff

With a willingness to take on *Waiting for Godot*—a masterpiece by Samuel Beckett that one can safely say revolutionized theatre—Canadian playwright Brendan Gall is taking a leap of faith. Fans of Beckett's work may question if Gall's adaptation *Alias Godot*, which has

been updated to the 21st century, can hope to achieve the esoteric and philosophical nature of the original theatre production.

But James Hamilton isn't worried. The actor—who plays Rocko in the drama, which is based on Beckett's Pozzo—hints that though Gall's adaptation makes pretensions toward intellectualism, it alleviates those grand gestures with buffoonish comedy and black satire. As well, it has the ambitious intention to turn *Waiting for Godot*'s abstract ideas into both political and, above all, realistic concepts.

One of these onerous aims is the play's claim to solving the puzzles posed by Beckett. In *Waiting for Godot*, two caricatured men occupy their time as they wait for someone named Godot, who never comes. Gall's play retains their images, but intends to imbue them with more humanizing sympathy than Beckett did, while pronouncing that Godot is God before setting out to explain why Godot never came.

"Beckett's play was so ambivalent and he was so obtuse with his hints,"

says James Hamilton with a note of frustration. "I think he just said, 'it means whatever it means,' which is a sad response for a playwright."

"We're dealing with the end of the world here—the death clock is at five minutes to midnight, and Godot has the watch."

JAMES HAMILTON
ACTOR, ALIAS GODOT

This is not to say that Gall's adaptation doesn't have its own little secrets, ones that Hamilton admits to puzzling over during his multiple readings of the play. Godot is a "foreign" man, who, on his way to the appointment with Beckett's two waiting characters, is arrested and brought to an interrogation room in New York City. He leaves a package behind, though Hamilton will not confess to

what he discovers inside it.

Another, this time self-conscious, puzzle in Gall's play is how exactly the flesh-and-blood Godot is similar to a God. He appears to share characteristics with an all-powerful deity, while being neither omnipresent or omniscient.

"There's something celestial about Godot," muses Hamilton. "The beauty of the character is that he's not aware of it. He doesn't really know where he stands—and that's symbolic."

As the detectives in the interrogation room attempt to piece together exactly what Godot is and what he represents, Godot contemplates his own existence himself. And when he realizes it, the play shows it as both a nightmare for him as well as a "release."

"It's a nightmare for him because he's in charge of a lot of things, like hope," explains Hamilton. "We're dealing with the end of the world here—the death clock is at five minutes to midnight, and Godot has the watch. It takes him a long time to realize that he's calling the shots."

Gall has set his play in a post 9-11 world that closely mimics our times. In the claustrophobic interrogation room, the characters bring to life themes of loss, fear, and hopelessness. Though he breezily bounces into the room and is the source of a lot of the physical comedy in the play, Hamilton's character is a Big Brother figure who represents the sinister emotions of righteousness and indignation that Hamilton says "you can hear when you turn on the news."

The political themes in the play hint at the loss of rights following 9/11, and the manic increase in security. But despite the seriousness of these issues, Hamilton, who notes that he has worked as a clown in the past, defends *Alias Godot*'s physical comedy as essential and a reflection of the "absurdism" of our times.

"When we watch the news, we feel like we're constantly waiting for that other shoe to drop, waiting for CNN to tell us something horrible. In the meantime, it's going to tell us what size shoes Anna Nicole Smith wore. We live in such a crazy time."

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4. CHAD VANGAALLEN

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(Flemish Eye/Sub Pop)

5. WOLF PARADE

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(Sub Pop)

6. WENDY MCNEILL

A Dreamer's Guide To Hardcore Living
(Six Shooter)

7. AZEDA BOOTH

Mysterious Body
(Lakesong Press)

8. WOODPIGEON

Treasure Library Canada
(Independent)

9. THE WICKED AWESOMES

Information Entropy
(Almost Ready)

10. MATT PERRI

Let's
(Independent)

Teatro la Quindicina keeps their eyes on the *Pies*

theatrepreview

Thrubwell's Pies

Directed by Jeff Haslam

Written by Belinda Cornish

Starring Sheri Somerville, Mark Meer, Amy Shostak, and Belinda Cornish

25 September–11 October, Tuesday–Saturday at 7:30pm, with Saturday matinee at 2pm

Varscona Theatre (10329–83 Ave)

\$19 for students at tixonthesquare.ca or the Varscona Box Office

DAVID JOHNSTON

Arts & Entertainment Staff



It seems that pies are emerging as a significant factor on the arts scene lately. *Sweeney Todd*, *Pushing Daisies*, and now the latest confection from Teatro La Quindicina, *Thrubwell's Pies*, which will be bringing pastry-packed goodness to the Varscona stage this fall.

"It's a big honour," exclaims Belinda Cornish, the play's author. "I did my first show with Teatro in—I think it was 2005—with *A Grand Time in the Rapids*. What's great about it is, it's such an actor's theatre company—like, Jeff [Haslam, the director] is an actor himself, so he knows what we need to hear. And I don't mean him saying, 'Oh, you guys are brilliant'—although he does say that. But he knows how the notes sound to an actor. He knows how to concisely tell us what to do."

Cornish, who co-wrote a few shows with her production company Panties Productions, got her first big play-writing experience earlier this year when she penned the hysterical British crime caper *Diamond Dog* in a co-production with THEATrePUBLIC.

"It's pretty fun because *Diamond Dog* is sort of the complete opposite of [*Thrubwell's Pies*]," Cornish says, in somewhat of an understatement. "There's a lot of swearing, punching, and things like that."

Indeed, the lavish script of *Diamond Dog* often seemed to have more profanity than actual lines of dialogue, along with violence, gunplay, murder, and various other altercations. But Edmonton audiences lapped up the vulgarity, which not only gave *Diamond Dog* a victory lap at the Fringe this summer, but helped Cornish land the job of writing a slightly more G-rated script to finish up Teatro La Quindicina's spring-summer season.

"And in this play, there's no swearing at all. And less punching," Cornish explains of the script with a chuckle. "Well, there isn't actually any punching in this play. A bit of flapping, but not so much with the punching."

Thrubwell's Pies is a self-described "vivacious thriller" set in the mansion of Alicia Montague (Sheri Somerville), the elderly heiress to an enormous windfall in the pie industry. Foibles and follies galore follow the characters who surround the wealthy inheritor, from her young husband Shepton (Mark Meer), young neighbourhood upstart baker Nettie Thrubwell (Amy Shostak), and the inefficient maid Scrofula (Cornish).

"Scrofula? It's actually another name for tuberculosis," says Cornish, who's playing the role of the lung-disease-named servant. "I just thought it was funny; it's like calling somebody

'Whooping Cough.'"

But her background as an actress is probably what Cornish is known best for within the Edmonton theatre community. If anything, though, her acting background only contributes to her playwriting experience.

"I think they definitely help each other. And I'm also an improviser, on top of everything, so that contributes," she says, adding that she's also done some directing work with Panties Production for their 2003's *Guns 'n' Roses* musical *Paradise City*. As she explains, all the different roles bring something new to her role as a playwright.

"You hear voices in a sense—how the lines should be said, and how they should come out. It also helps that the cast was sorted out beforehand. Jeff and I sat down and chatted about the actors, so I knew who I was writing for."

The versatile cast unites Teatro regulars like Somerville with Teatro newcomers like Shostak. Like the performers, Cornish is certain that *Thrubwell's Pies* will be a scrumptious treat for all audience members, be they fans of the company or just dessert aficionados.

"There's a pie in the face—that might make people come." Then Cornish laughs again. "I'm giving far too much away now."



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Print festival an infinite onion of art

Professor Emeritus Walter Jule explains how EPI celebrates multiculturalism

festivalpreview

Edmonton Print International 2008

Presented by Society for Northern Alberta Print (SNAP)
Grand Opening: 26 September, 8-9:30pm in the Capitol Arts Building
Prize Winner Speeches: 27 September, 10am-12pm, and 1:30-4pm in Humanities LC1.
Runs 26 September-17 October
Exhibit: Capitol Arts Building (10708-105 Avenue), SNAP Galleries (10309-97 Street) and the University of Alberta Museums Print Study Centre

CAROLINE GAULT

Between the elegant, delicately crafted miniatures to gigantic fifty-foot-long prints that cover walls, the Society of Northern Alberta Print (SNAP) promises a vast rainbow of the visual arts at the 2008 Edmonton Print International Festival. This year's exhibition will unite cultures and continents as it features over 65 different artists from all over the world.

Professor Emeritus Walter Jule of the University of Alberta and director of this year's exhibition, says the experience will offer a "celebration of the printed image" to the Edmonton public, and a "chance to see the diversity of what's possible today with original prints.

Having been making prints for over fifty years, Jule has witnessed the evolution of a medium that has brought in over 1400 entries to Edmonton's festival, from Belgium and Japan to the USA and Russia.

"[SNAP] issued an international open call for entries to a huge

database of print artists around the world, [such as] print organizations, galleries, museums, and schools," says Jule. "But we did something a little different than most print shows—we didn't put any restrictions. Because print art doesn't get a lot of exposure in Canada for various reasons, we thought the best way to [host the festival] would be to have an unrestricted format."

This initiative, wholly undertaken by SNAP, embraces the differences in aesthetic styles and formats, and the technological advancements brought on by an increasingly digital world.

"Because print art doesn't get a lot of exposure in Canada for various reasons, we thought the best way to [host the festival] would be to have an unrestricted format."

WALTER JULE
DIRECTOR, EDMONTON PRINT INTERNATIONAL 2008

"We have three dimensional print installations—we have lithographs [that have] a video image playing on the surface at the same time. There are all kinds of artists that are combining digital output with traditional techniques, so you have a sculptural and tactile presence to the surface of the work, [as well as] this kind of ethereal, non-temporal quality—a kind of floating digital fog."

Jule says that it's SNAP's commitment to the visual arts that has put Edmonton on the map in terms of being able to host such a global event. Not only is the Society's hard work shining the spotlight onto the

city's visual arts following, but it's paving the way for printmakers in the future.

"SNAP is where students who graduate from the University can continue their work in printmaking," Jule points out.

There are classes, tours, and exhibitions at the SNAP gallery year round. This year's festival is just another way for SNAP to "broaden their commitment to the art of print within Edmonton," as Jule puts it.

In selecting the winners of the EPI festival, the international jury looks for works that are not only masterfully executed, but demonstrate both an awareness of critical theory and explore new directions.

"They're looking for work that moves them somehow—and I don't necessarily mean emotionality. I don't mean tear-jerker prints," says Jule. "[They're] looking for what anyone is looking for when they go into a gallery: something that just stops them and seems to relate to their life and their questions."

It's a sentiment that speaks to the emotions that visual arts can convey, crossing cultural, ethnic, and language barriers to touch people regardless of their background. While the jury for the EPI Festival 2008 may not look for prints that leave viewers with moist eyes, the multiple levels that art can be appreciated on—indeed, what the festival is celebrating—provides Jule with a metaphor that could be made into its own tear-jerking print in the future.

"These practices that we do, especially creative ones—it's like an onion. You peel off the outer layer when you're younger and you think, 'Well, that's what it's made out of.' But then you get inside and there's another layer after that, and another layer after that. It's a kind of infinite onion."

Manafest brings postivity to hip-hop

musicpreview

Manafest

Sunday, 28 September at 7pm
Freedom Center (4925-134 Ave)
\$10 at the door

BEN DEXTRAZE

Instrument Writer

Being an emcee was something that Manafest literally fell into: after hurting his ankle while attempting a skateboarding trick for a video segment in 1998, the singer found himself unable to follow his passions in skateboarding and decided to pursue hip-hop instead.

"I was filming with some of my friends, and I ended up jacking up my foot and it put me off for like three months. That's when I became immersed in hip-hop and started to write songs," he says. "Skateboarding was my culture—just like KRS-ONE talks about hip-hop being its own culture. There's an attitude, there's a style, there's almost a whole lifestyle around it."

Skateboarding isn't the only life choice that comes through in his music. Hailing from Toronto, Manafest, aka Chris Greenwood, is both an underground Canadian rapper/lyricist and a devout Christian. Although he keeps his religious beliefs close to heart, he hopes that his lyrical talent and

positive message will shine through the Christian label that he feels has been placed on his music.

"I'm an artist who makes music that happens to be Christian," Greenwood says. "It's all about being real—being who you are—I just like to write whatever is in my heart and I'm not trying to push any ideas on people. Being Christian gives me a certain set of ethics, but I'm not a fan on being labeled Christian because it tends to put you in a little box that assumes your music is for a certain crowd, and it's not. I'm not trying to exclude anyone from listening to my music."

Greenwood adds that producing music was at a challenge at first because of his inexperience in the industry. However, once he found his new career and began to work at making music, new doors began to open.

"My music is hip-hop mixed with a little bit of rock. I listen to hip-hop, I listen to punk, I listen to all kinds of music, but as far as actually writing stuff—no way dude! But I started to work on [hip-hop] like I worked on my skating—I started to develop my skills and one thing led to another."

Greenwood has been finding success in recent years in the music industry, signing with the internationally distributed Christian label BEC Recordings and releasing three albums since 2005 under the BEC's hip-hop subsidiary Uprok Records.

Glory, Greenwood's 2007 release, was nominated for a Juno award for Contemporary Christian-Gospel Album of the Year. His latest album *Citizens Activ* was released this past spring in both North America and Japan.

"[*Citizens Activ*] is about regular everyday people who are active in pursuing their dreams—people who are going for it," Greenwood states. "There's a track on my album called 'Moving On,' and basically it's about moving on to pursue the dreams that are inside of you. Another song called 'So Beautiful' is about going through the struggle of life and realizing the things that you're working towards are beautiful in the end—it's about seeing the beautiful picture that you've created and how that picture is your life."

Locked and loaded with an arsenal of positive messages, Greenwood might find superstardom in the world of hip-hop somewhat difficult. Riding on his skateboarding street cred might not help boost his popularity in a genre that's built on gangsters, pimps, and Kanye West wannabes. Greenwood, however, does find himself remaining humble within the popularity that he has already found, as he tries to shine his lyrical insight on the toils and triumphs of everyday people.

"I try not to think of myself as being above my audience, but as being on the same level as they are."



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STUDENT RECEIVABLES

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Which nominated artist deserves the coveted Polaris Prize?

An old A&E hack sees stars *In The Future* for Black Mountain



AMANDA
ASH

point

I have mixed emotions about this year's ten nominees. Actually, it's more of a frowning of brows towards two of the titles and a big, drooling smile aimed at the other eight.

This year's guilt-induced nod goes to Stars' *In Our Bedroom After The War*. Like Arcade Fire's *Neon Bible* last year, I feel Stars were nominated solely on their successes as a band, not on the artistic merit of the album. *In Our Bedroom After The War* blows chunks, with the exception of "The Night Starts Here" and "Take Me To The Riot." That's two songs out of thirteen. Does that mean the entire album deserves a nomination?

Clearly, my vote doesn't support Stars. Nor does it go towards The Weakerthans for a similar reason. *Reunion Tour* just doesn't make me weep with punk-rock happiness.

Plants And Animals' *Parc Avenue*, Shad's *The Old Prince* and Two Hours Traffic's *Little Jabs* are well worth a Polaris pat-on-the-back. However, they stand as weak contenders. *Parc Avenue* promote some serious Montréal-spiced rock, but the flavour dies out by the end of the disc. *The Old Prince* is a hip-hop rollercoaster of rhyming stylez, but Shad reminds me too much of Marvin Gaye

and middle-aged sexual relations to pay attention. And *Little Jabs* harvests catchy, funky beats, but there's nothing deeper than their pop-rock candy coating.

Next on my scale of possible breadwinners is Basia Bulat and Caribou. Both *Oh, My Darling* and *Andorra*, respectively, are captivating. Bulat's delicate folk tunes run rampant in my head for days on end. Caribou's frisky beach beats make me feel like I'm caught somewhere between a Beach Boys concert and an ecstasy-fuelled rave.

However, I give both Holy Fuck and Kathleen Edwards a hands-over-the-head round-of-applause. *LP* and *Asking For Flowers* are brilliant. Fantastic. Any clichéd word you can spit out. The framed vinyl of *LP* hangs on my wall, so every morning, when I want to rip out someone's throat because I haven't had my coffee yet, I'm reminded that there is genius in electronic music. Similarly, *Asking For Flowers* is a beautiful piece of country art, particularly when performed live.

That leaves us with the record I support wholeheartedly: Black Mountain's *In The Future*. The disc taps into groovy, psychedelic-rock space-outs that drift into perpetual bliss with every echoing guitar chord. The whole thing makes me want to put flowers in my hair and prance barefooted in a prairie field.

If I had my way, *In The Future* would be the winner of this year's Polaris Prize. It's the best album to have come out of Canada this year. Oh, and it kind of makes you feel like you're on acid. All the pleasure without the consequences, baby. I'm gonna go get my hit right now.

A new A&E hack likes the Weakerthans, but concedes on Bulat



JONN
KMECH

counterpoint

Guessing who's going to win the Polaris Prize always seems like such a crapshoot. Sure, Owen Pallett of *Final Fantasy* may have seemed like a frontrunner, but nobody thought Patrick Watson was going to win, including possibly Watson himself. Therefore, I think with my selection, I'm going to say both who I think should win and who I think will win.

First off, while I agree that Holy Fuck lays down some funky—and also musically gifted—electronica, I either see them as a top contender or having no chance. Since they have already been at the center of the PromArt controversy (however unjustly), the committee may pick them as a grand "screw you" to the government or avoid them at all costs to prevent further attention.

But politics aside, there are a few other albums that I don't see having a chance. I have to agree that Stars will not likely be the winner. While I didn't hate *In Our Bedroom*, it wasn't as good as their past efforts, and though it's unfair, Stars might be too well-known to warrant a win. It might just be my taste in music, but I was never a fan of Caribou, even though I can respect Dan Snaith's flavourful retro-pop. As well, even though Two

Hours Traffic is a toe-tapping delicatessen of pop-rock, it may be one cold cut short of a platter—in other words, just not strong enough to be a solid choice. I have similar sentiments about Plants And Animals, except exchange "pop-rock" with "folk rock."

And while I agree that Black Mountain's *In The Future* is indeed future-looking and a fantastic mix of trippy guitar wailing—and that they may deserve the prize—the jury hasn't shown much interest previously in more rock-oriented acts.

This is where I get to the point where I have to separate who will win from who should. I'd love to see John K Samson and Co finally get the recognition they deserve, even though *Reunion Tour* is inferior to *Left and Leaving*. But they're a long shot, since the Weakerthans, like Stars, may be too mainstream for the jury.

I'd go to sleep happy on Monday night if Shad won, too. I'd have to disagree that his album is weak—on the contrary, the man has an incredible flow, sarcastic wit, and *The Old Prince* is one of the all-around strongest hip-hop records I've heard in a while. Similarly, Kathleen Edwards has an incredible voice and makes western music that even this non-country-music-lover can love.

If I had to pick the album that will win, I'd have to go with Basia Bulat's *Oh, My Darling*—though not because I think it's the best album, but the one that the jurors will like the most, judging from the previous winners. Take that for what it's worth, which undoubtedly isn't much; the jury might throw us for another loop this year and surprise everybody.

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albumreview

Metallica

Death Magnetic
Warner Brothers

AARON YEO

Arts & Entertainment Writer

Metallica. To most, the mere name evokes images of skinny adolescents with long, scraggly hair and hole-filled t-shirts jumping around in their parents' garage back in the '80s. Despite being one of the premier thrash metal bands of the past generation, one can't help but wonder if they can still deliver today in their middle age, especially after the catastrophe that was *St Anger*.

Enter *Death Magnetic*, their ninth studio album, and straight away, the first riff on the initial track instantly transports you back in time to that

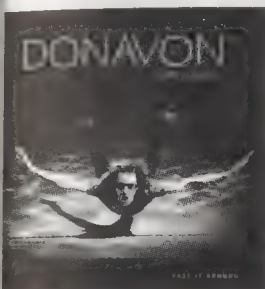
carport with its furious aggression. All the songs come together as another great jam, showing that they can still thrash out like they did twenty years ago.

The sound has evolved a little, as they incorporate a few progressive elements into the thrash metal. But thankfully, they reincorporate that classic '80s sound Metallica is famous for, which was sorely lacking on *St Anger*. With riffs so crunchy they make Avenged Sevenfold feel like soggy cornflakes, James Hetfield attacks the microphone with his

traditional growling roar while Kirk Hammett blazes away on his solos.

While the production is still glossy, the band also put time into their artwork (possibly to prevent downloads). All the insert's pages have a coffin-shaped hole in them, which becomes part of a photo. As you flip through the book, there are holes where a man's mouth should be, one in the middle of an eyeball, and one with two elephant ass cheeks on either side.

In the end, this is a 21st century metal album with heavy '80s influence. Metallica isn't back, per se, but for a band that had seemingly all but dried up, *Death Magnetic* is definitely worthy of being amongst the band's best. Like most of their work, this is nothing musically spectacular; it just urges us humans to unleash that innate instinct to throw our heads up and down while punching the air repeatedly, no matter how publicly embarrassing it may be.



albumreview

Donovan Frankenreiter

Pass It Around
UMG Recordings

SARAH STEAD

Arts & Entertainment Staff

Donovan Frankenreiter is a Nirvana fan. Well, maybe—the cover to his latest album *Pass It Around* features the man himself underwater, arms spread, quite similarly to that naked baby on the cover of *Nevermind*. Except he's not reaching for a dollar bill and you can't see his penis.

That's about where the comparison ends though, because Frankenreiter's tunes are so laid back that the lyrics

might actually contain THC (the record wasn't named *Pass It Around* by accident).

Frankenreiter's songs adhere to the Jack Johnson brand of mellow surfer-pop, which makes sense since Johnson is a long-time friend of his. Indeed, the two have collaborated musically before, but Frankenreiter is much more than just a Jack Johnson wannabe; he's a skillful songwriter

with at least partial song-writing credit on all ten tracks on the disc. His constant variation between acoustic and electric guitar, as well as the addition of keyboards and harmonica on many of the tracks, adds a flavour of Frankenreiter's own.

"Life, Love & Laughter" is a simple ballad full of advice about the three things that matter most. Elsewhere, "Come With Me" features pal Ben Harper who contributes some backing vocals and relaxed slide guitar, and "Sing a Song" is a bongo-infused finger-picked tune about lifting your spirits through song; "When is the last time you said hello to a stranger?" asks Frankenreiter. It's really hard to knock an album that centers around feeling good and thinking positive, and every now and then, we need to be reminded.



albumreview

Hawksley Workman

Los Manlicious
Universal Music Canada

JOSHUA DE GROOT

Arts & Entertainment Writer

Most of us would need a thesaurus to describe all the genres of music that Hawksley Workman has fearlessly flown through in the past: cabaret pop on *For Him and the Girls*; opera-inspired wailing on *Lover/Fighter*; folk balladry on *Treeful of Starling*; and pseudo-gospel mixed with political rock on the recent *Between the Beautifuls*.

Unfortunately, on *Los Manlicious*, Hawksley takes his fans to a genre that

they never wanted to hear from him: generic rock.

Workman himself has said that the album was intended more for the European market, since he released it there first. That still doesn't explain why he recorded it at all, or why he eventually allowed it to be released in Canada.

For once, Workman can't be called creative, and this lack of originality is never more apparent than in the

mainstream-directed openers "Is This What You Call Love?" and "When You Gonna Flower." In fact, the album's two best songs ("Piano Blink" and "This City is a Drag") were already released on *Between the Beautifuls*, so a second record in 2008 hardly seems necessary—and even those recordings have been given radio-friendly remixes complete with louder guitar solos.

The album isn't completely without merit. You'll be dancing in your kitchen while preparing dinner to the glam-rock of "It's a Drug." Also, the funky "Fatty Wants to Dance" is worth a listen with its chorus of "Fatty wants to dance / but he can't fit his ass into those pants." But those highlights don't come close to shaping the confident kaleidoscope of sound that Workman's fans have come to expect.



albumreview

Divine Brown

The Love Chronicles
Warner Music Canada

NICOLE BASARABA

Arts & Entertainment Writer

Although *The Love Chronicles* may be dynamic, Divine Brown seems to have two polar extremes—from cheesy musical to a soulful night club solo.

For the first half of her album, it was surprising to hear music that would fit perfectly into a movie like *Grease*, with the female backup vocalists singing "shoobie doo wap wap," accompanied with the clapping and finger snapping one would expect

from a choreographed Travolta routine. However, some of these fluffy songs are fun to listen to if you're able to block out the image of ecstatically happy people dancing in puffy skirts and letterman jackets.

Strangely, the second half of the album shifts the musical tone to something you might hear in a dark nightclub from a woman in a sparkly red dress on center stage. Brown's voice is nothing but divine, mimicking

the deepness of Tony Braxton in "It's Over," the sultry whispers of Janet Jackson in "Jump Start," and the pure power of Christina Aguilera in "One More Chance."

Between her vocals and the music, most songs closely resemble other tunes so familiar you may begin to feel nostalgic. For example, in "Boogie Slide," the vocals were a rendition of a Spice Girls' tune, and the electronic keyboard in "Sunglasses" sounded just like "Sweet Dreams (Are Made of This)."

The album title says it all when it comes to the lyrics, which are all about love. However, *The Love Chronicles* isn't completely derivative or stereotypical, as long as you listen to it with an open mind with no expectations, especially due to Brown's surprising change in direction from '60s pop to R&B midway through.



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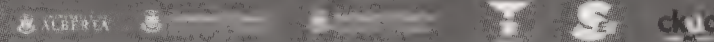
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LAUREN STIEGLITZ

KICKIN' IT OLD SCHOOL Danny Nielsen (11) splits through UCFV's midfield and prepares to boot it.



NATALIE RITOSA

THE ELECTRIC SLIDE Pandas midfielder Elise Emmott (7) slide-tackles Manitoba's Alison Kastner.

U of A soccer clubs to face coastal rivals at home

Bears hope to better defend lead, not get fancy against BC teams

NICK FROST
Sports Editor

There is only one word swirling through the minds of the Golden Bears soccer team going into this weekend against UBC and Victoria: win. While this seems like an obvious sentiment for any team, the fact that Alberta has four draws in six games and now goes into a two-game set with the top-two teams in Canada West is starting to speak volumes.

On a number of occasions this season, the Bears have found themselves in a position where they've had a hard time achieving a proper middle ground and finish the game deadlocked—they've either had to fight back in order to salvage ground in the standings, or have had the lead and struggled to properly defend it. Head coach Len Vickery attributes the trend to the players need to become "a little more accustomed to each other in terms of passing game," as well as being more disciplined on both sides of the ball.

"Often times, we've had to come back from a lead, and perhaps we were getting into that mindset where it takes getting a goal down or two goals down before we get ourselves going," Vickery said. "If we do get a lead, as we did on Sunday, it's a case of maintaining our defensive discipline, and holding our positions, and making it difficult for the opposition to score—not making it easier by being gung-ho to try and score a third, fourth, even fifth goal."

Some of the Bears' problems, however, can be blamed on the health of some of the players. Alberta's boys have been hurting lately, with some of their top players either playing through or nursing injuries. While none of them are long-term or significant enough to warrant time out of the lineup, it's still something that is of concern to the team's performance.

"We were hiding a few injuries [last weekend]," Vickery admitted. "Harman Braich was

hurt in the key game on Saturday and didn't play at all on Sunday; John Konye didn't play in the second half on the Sunday. We've got some injuries that we're trying to work through right now and, hopefully, by giving them a rest, they're going to be good to go this weekend."

One aspect of the game that's giving Vickery some confidence is their secondary scoring. This past weekend against Trinity Western and Fraser Valley, bench players came up big in allowing the Bears to walk away with the two ties.

"We've had some tremendous contributions from players coming off the bench, whether it's in the late stages when we need to score a goal, or—as was the case on Sunday—Kevin Perry started and played 90 minutes," Vickery explained. "He came in and notched a key goal. Matt Cowan came in on Saturday and scored a goal, then came in on Sunday and started in place of Harman Braich and did a good job defensively."

The UBC Thunderbirds come into the game with an undefeated record and as the top team in Canada West, while the Victoria Vikes—following closely behind the T-Birds in the standings—have only been defeated once: three weeks ago by the Golden Bears. Alberta learned a lot about both teams in their first matchups.

"We learned that they were very good," Vickery said. "I think we surprised Victoria with a 2-1 win—a 1-1 might've been what was expected late in the game, but we managed to get a header on the other end off a wide-free kick to win the game."

"Against UBC, it was a solid battle from start to finish. There weren't too many chances at either end and, of course, that's good news from our point-of-view. We've got to work to increase the number and the quality of our chances to get the goals necessary to win the game."

Both games kick off at 2:15pm at Foote Field, with Alberta facing Victoria on Saturday and UBC on Sunday.

Pandas looking to catch up to Thunderbirds, Vikes in standings

PATRICIA ARISS
Sports Writer

Having reached the halfway point of their season at the end of this past weekend, women's soccer head coach Liz Jepsen and her merry band of Pandas are in for two tough fights when Victoria and UBC head to Edmonton this weekend. Both the T-Birds and the Vikes are hoping to maintain their respective second- and third-place rankings atop the Canada West standings, while the Pandas—currently ranked fifth—are looking to take crucial points away from both teams.

The Pandas continued their preparation throughout this week, knowing what will need to be done come game time: against UBC, it's the brains that are needed; against UVic, it's going to be the muscle. Alberta's girls are going to need to capitalize on their acquired knowledge of their two opponents and come more prepared than they were for their first eight matches.

"Last time we saw both teams, it was the first and second games of the season, so we can come in with more preparation," Jepsen said. "They're teams we're going to have to battle with to have success against. It's always tough playing those coast teams, but we know what we have to do."

Without having the luxury of a preseason this year, the Pandas went into the previous coast matchups without having played together as a team. At that time, training camp was all that the Pandas had to draw on before taking on two conference powerhouses the first time around.

"A lot of the players walked in not having played against two top opponents," Jepsen explained. "So, the nice thing is that we now have more experience in Canada West under our belts."

With eight games remaining in the schedule—including the two this weekend—the Green and Gold are determined to force their way into securing a playoff spot throughout the last stretch of the season. Success against both teams

this weekend would go a long way in giving the Pandas a much better shot at clinching a playoff spot; otherwise, the Pandas will be clawing with the middle of the pack just to stay alive.

"Ideally we'd really like to push for a third-spot finish, if not first or second," Jepsen commented. "If we can take points from both teams then we'd be really competitive to finish first or second; if we didn't then we'd really have to fight in our last half to finish third."

Victoria presents the Pandas with another large task for Saturday, as they come into the weekend ranked ninth nationally. According to Jepsen, the Vikes are a solid team throughout with plenty of experience.

"They have a number of strikers that are very, very effective and experienced. I think that will be a huge battle for us."

The Vikes will be coming into Sunday's game with revenge on their minds after losing to the Pandas on their home turf in their last matchup.

"We took points off Victoria in their home park, so I think they'll be ready to make everything even and we're going to need to play really hard against them," explained Jepsen.

UBC presents a challenge of their own for Sunday's match with an experienced backline, a strong midfield, and a forward line that, although somewhat inexperienced, have shown no difficulty getting points. The Thunderbirds sit in the runner-up spot for Canada West and the fifth-spot nationally. Alberta will need to have their wits about them in order to find themselves successful at the end of Sunday's game.

"We will need to use intelligent movement to get past [their backline]," Jepsen said. "They're solid through their mid. They lost a couple of their top strikers, so they're rebuilding up front but they are scoring goals."

The Pandas take to Foote Field on Saturday against the Vikes at noon, and at the same time on Sunday against the Thunderbirds.



BRENNAN MURPHY

Puck Pandas look to make their Presence felt in weekend tourney

EVAN DAUM
Sports Writer

After falling just short of capturing another CIS title last year, the Pandas hockey team continues its preparations for another strong year in the upcoming Canada West season with two exhibition games in this weekend's Pandas Presence Tournament. The Pandas will face the Chinese National Team, Saskatchewan's U-18 provincial squad, and the defending National Champions from McGill at the Commodore Drake Arena.

The trio of games will serve as the Pandas' last tests before the team opens its schedule the first weekend of October against the UBC Thunderbirds in Vancouver. The tournament gives the Pandas an early look at the McGill Martlets, who defeated the Wilfrid Laurier Golden Hawks last March to claim the school's first national title in any sport in eleven years. McGill will be among the favourites to capture the national title again this season, along with the perennial powerhouse Pandas. Head coach Howie Draper sees the importance that this preseason tourney holds, especially against fierce competition like the Martlets.

"This will be an opportunity for us to solidify our lineup, add some roles,

and get a real good indication because we're playing a very high level of skill in this tournament," Draper said.

Aside from this storyline, the Pandas will face the Chinese for a second time this year. After defeating their overseas opponents by a score of 6-1 earlier this month, the Pandas will look to play another strong game, but expect a tighter contest.

Though absent from the first match while coaching with Alberta's U-18 squad, Draper knows this second meeting is sure to be a close one.

"The game sounded like it was very competitive," Draper said. "They play the game at a very high speed and have some very good skills, so you know it's going to be a good game."

Along with the Chinese, the Pandas will be facing the Saskatchewan U-18 team, and although they may not be a national team or defending CIS champions, Alberta expects a very competitive and fast-paced match nonetheless.

"Provincial teams at the under-18 level are typically very skilled, so it's always competitive when we play against teams like that," Draper said. "They're fast, have good puck skills, good shooting skills, and to a certain extent, they have a lot to prove."

Not only will the Saskatchewan game act as tune-up for the Pandas; they'll

also accomplish two other important purposes in the process. Considering the fact that these kids are still in high school, they're the type of players that Draper will look to potentially recruit in the near future. As well, it provides Draper with not only an opportunity to scout possible future recruits for the U of A, but also to see what his competition will be like when he faces the Saskatchewan team as head coach of the Alberta U-18 team.

"It's of a dual nature for me because it gives me an opportunity to watch in this age category that I could potentially recruit for next year," Draper explained. "And, as the head coach for Team Alberta, it gives me an opportunity to watch them play as a team, and see what they offer, and eventually, when Team Alberta faces them at nationals, I'll have an idea of what to expect."

The Pandas will wrap up their preseason schedule with meetings against the Chinese National Team Friday night, Team Saskatchewan on Saturday night, and on Sunday—in a possible preview of two teams bound for nationals—when they face the McGill Martlets. Puck drops at 7pm Friday and Saturday night, with the third and final game beginning at 11:45am on Sunday morning.

run-defence, which has given up over 160 yards per game. Kickoff on Friday is at 7pm, with an audio webcast available at bears.ualberta.ca.

Pandas Rugby

The Pandas rugby crew starts their regular season off this weekend with the Canada West seeding tournament in Lethbridge. They will face the UBC Thunderbirds, Victoria Vikes, and the defending CIS champions Lethbridge Pronghorns in the round-robin tournament, which will determine the matchups for the Canada West Final Four.

Ideally, Alberta would like to win at least two out of the three matches this weekend, gaining a top-two seed for the Canada West semi-finals and, thus, a much better shot at securing their place in the CIS Championships, with the Pronghorns automatically qualifying as hosts. The Pandas play at 3pm on Friday and 1pm both Saturday and Sunday.

Volleyball

Both Alberta volleyball squads open up

their exhibition seasons this weekend. The Bears travel to the Okanagan for a two-match warmup series with the Trinity Western Spartans taking place in Penticton and Kelowna on Thursday and Friday respectively.

Meanwhile, the Pandas head to Regina for the Cougar Invitational from Friday through Sunday, where they'll face Calgary, Brandon, and Winnipeg before two rounds of tournament playoffs. The tournament ought to provide plenty of evaluation and practice, as the Pandas will play two matches on both Friday and Saturday, as well as one on Sunday.

Pandas Basketball

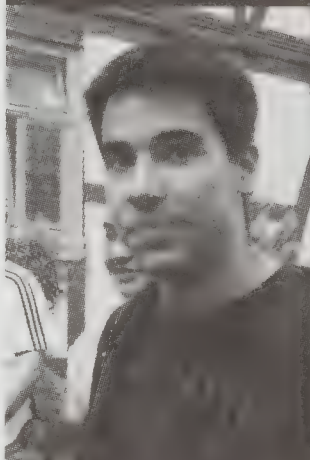
The Pandas basketball team also begins exhibition play this week, with two matchups—first, they'll do battle against the Mount Royal Cougars of the ACAC on Thursday at 4pm in the Main Gym.

On Saturday, the Pandas will then welcome an alumni team made up of former Pandas in what is sure to be an enjoyable and entertaining game. Tip-off for that contest goes at 3pm in the Main Gym.

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SPORTS SHORTS

Compiled by Matt Pretty

Bears Football

The Bears' pigskins (1-3) will head back out on the road again this weekend, but it will be their first trip east as they head to Saskatoon to play the perennial Canada West powerhouse Saskatchewan Huskies (2-1) under the lights at Griffiths Stadium.

The Huskies currently sit second in Canada West and boast the highest scoring offence in the conference at 28 points per game. Saskatchewan running back Dathan Thomas leads Canada West in scoring with five touchdowns—more than the entire Bears team has scored all season. Alberta will counter with the talented tailback trio of Tendayi Jarvis, Matt Jarvis, and Nigel Amenu-Tekaa, who will try to take advantage of Saskatchewan's relatively weak



LAUREN STIEGLITZ

CROSSED UP Pandas are playing catch-up for the playoffs with teams like UBC.

Field hockey Pandas play host to Calgary

Riding energy from their win in Victoria, Alberta hopes to overpower Dinos

NICK FROST
Sports Writer

The two bottom teams in Canada West will battle it out for a chance to try and catch up to UBC and Victoria in the conference's four-team race, as the Pandas field hockey team battles the University of Calgary Dinos (0-4-0) in a two-game set at Foote Field. Last weekend, the Pandas made up some minor ground in their chase for the top of the standings as they split their weekend set with the second-place Victoria Vikes. Had it not been for a close 2-1 victory this past Sunday, this weekend's matchup would've been the battle of the winless teams; now, Alberta comes in with a significant victory in their back pocket, which may have given them the momentum they need to defeat the hapless Dinos.

The win was also a good learning experience, as it showed the Pandas what they need to focus on going forward to be able to beat top opposition. Head coach Carla Duncan was proud of the way the team handled themselves on Sunday, and hopes that they can carry out a similar performance against a weaker Calgary team.

"It was a really good win for us, and it was really a character builder because we had to rebound after some significant losses," Duncan said. "We just played things really well—we were smart and implemented the game plan. Also, everyone contributed, so it was a really great feeling as well."

One thing Duncan isn't allowing, though, is for complacency to set in. While her team may have executed

well on both sides of the ball against the Vikes, it was still only one game, and one that they realize that they still weren't completely error-free. The difference, Duncan notes, is that the team made less of the mistakes that they were prone to in the first few games, and she's continuously reminding her girls that they need to be as error-free as possible.

"We've just gone back and focused in on what we need to do as far as our system is concerned so we don't take teams too lightly."

CARLA DUNCAN
PANDAS FIELD HOCKEY HEAD COACH

"It wasn't that we went mistake free, but we didn't make some of the bigger errors that had cost us in previous games and we were able to capitalize on our chances," Duncan recalled. "Our approach and our ability to eliminate some of those bigger errors was really good. I mean, we were finally able to put the ball on net and, even then, we should've had a couple more."

Coming out of this week's practices, the Pandas have been working on their defence and ability to finish chances. Duncan says that her team will switch up their style a little bit this week to accommodate a more sound approach that will, hopefully, allow them to play

a smart game—as opposed to doing too much—against a weaker opponent.

"Well, we're going with a little bit of a different style," Duncan said. "Last year, we were in the same boat in that we were three points ahead of Calgary going into a weekend against them, and we ended up tying three games against them. This week, we've just gone back and focused in on what we need to do as far as our system is concerned so we don't take teams too lightly. Yet, at the same time, it's an opportunity for us to try and dictate the play and take it to them."

Despite having not won a game in four attempts so far, the Calgary Dinos will, undoubtedly, be playing with purpose. The Pandas are anticipating a team that will come out with a nothing-to-lose mentality, and pour it away at the Alberta defence with an all-out attack as often as they can.

"[Calgary] is a very high-risk, high-reward team—they do take lots of chances and, because of that, they generate lots of opportunities and we know that," Duncan explained. "So they also leave themselves a little bit exposed, in particular on the defensive end, so we need to take advantage."

"They're always a tricky one because they pretty much prepare for their whole season to play against us, and we're kind of looking at the teams ahead of us, so it's pretty important that we don't take them lightly or take them for granted. We know they're going to be prepared to play us."

Action against the Dinos begins at 1pm on both Saturday and Sunday at Foote Field.

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INVOLVEMENT OPPORTUNITY

Football rookie Gerbrandt making veteran-sized impact

EVAN DAUM
Sports Writer

It didn't take Bears defensive lineman Craig Gerbrandt long to make a major impact in his rookie season—in fact, he started doing so from the first time he suited up for the Green and Gold. Gerbrandt, a first-year physical education and recreation student, brings an impressive resumé to the Bears after spending four seasons with the Edmonton Huskies of the Prairie Football Conference.

While a member of the Huskies, the Sherwood Park native captured back-to-back national championships in 2004 and 2005. Although he's experienced a great deal of success from a team standpoint with the Huskies, he also knows what it's like to be on a team that has struggled at times to achieve success.

"I've played in two national championships with the Huskies, and played on teams that have won national championships, but also teams that have missed the playoffs and haven't done so well the past two years," Gerbrandt says. "I think I can bring knowledge of what type of intensity you need to bring for a game and what you need to bring to the table to become a championship team."

The experience Gerbrandt gained was a major reason for his success early on as a Bear, but he's also aware that CIS football is a totally different ballgame than the junior level.

"It's definitely a step up from the Huskies, because there are just more quality players," Gerbrandt explains. "Now you're getting a lot more guys who want to come in and sometimes work out a lot harder."

Gerbrandt made a splash in his first game with Bears, garnering CIS Player of the Week honours for his ten tackles, one sack, and fumble recovery in the Bears regular season home opener against Simon Fraser. It was the kind of start Gerbrandt was looking for right out of the gate.



LAUREN STIEGLITZ

SOONER OR LATER, GERBRANDT'S GONNA GET YA Bears rookie linebacker Craig Gerbrandt (45) chases down the Manitoba Bisons running back.

"It's definitely a surprise to get recognized like that right off the bat," Gerbrandt says. "I'm playing with a great group of guys on defence. Our whole defence is solid with our defensive backs and linebackers, so it's really nice to play with a group like that and definitely helps out when you're playing."

Head Coach Jerry Friesen recognizes the importance that Gerbrandt's experience has played in his successful transition to university football. Although Gerbrandt has already made a major splash for the Bears, his role and skill level will undoubtedly evolve as he gains more

experience at the varsity level.

"He's got experience post high-school which is a real benefit," Friesen says. "His maturity and work habits are really what sustains his skill level."

"There's a lot of firsts for Craig coming into our program, and although he's got a lot of experience in postsecondary football, there's still a lot of firsts and he's experiencing that. As he gets more and more comfortable, he's going to take on more and more roles, and more responsibilities."

With the four impressive years of football

after high school that he's had, coupled with a successful start to his university career, the next logical step on his path is professional football, likely with the Canadian Football League—something that Gerbrandt would love to work towards achieving.

"I want to go as far as I can, and play as long as I can, and have fun while I'm doing it," Gerbrandt says.

So far, he's made a great impression on the Bears coaching staff, and will look to build on that this weekend as the team travels to Saskatoon to face the sixth-ranked Saskatchewan Huskies.

FROM THE AUTHOR OF FIGHT CLUB

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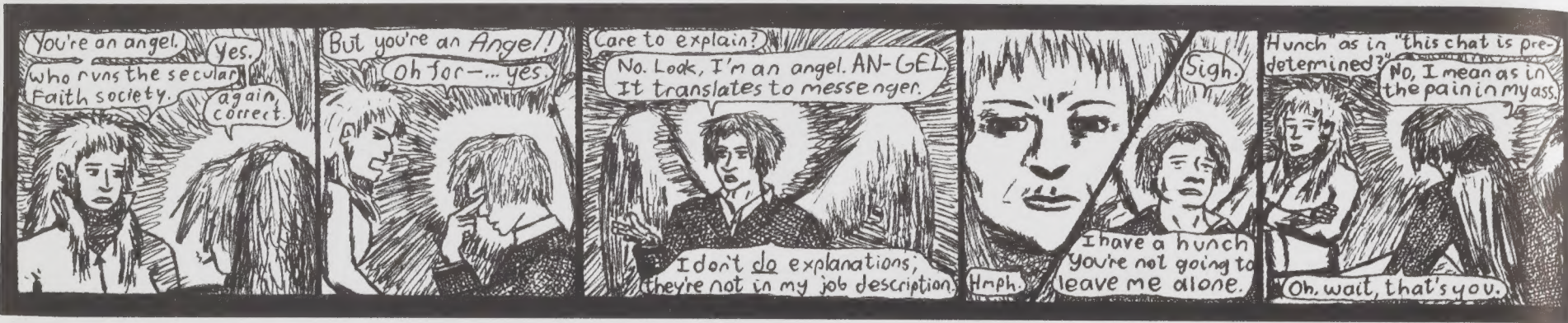
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Sexy Geek's Modified Drake Equation:

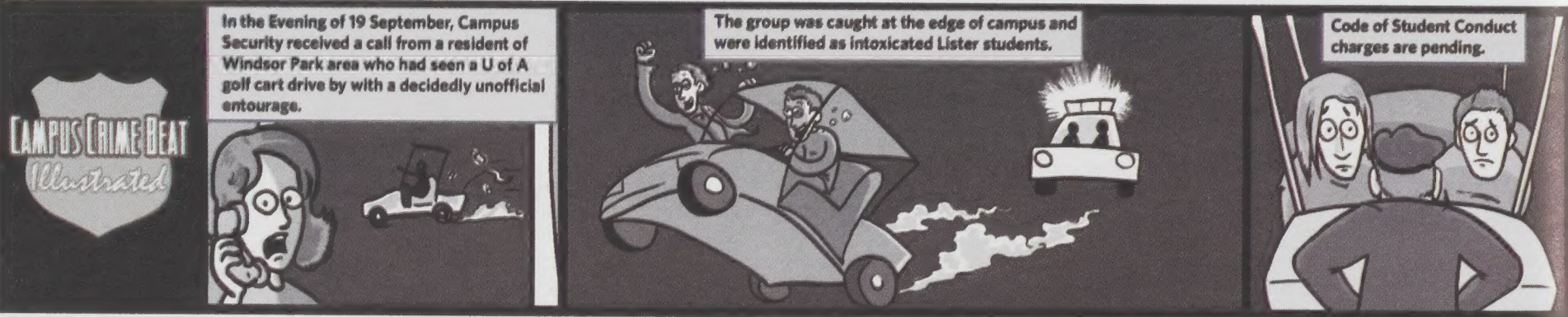
(with estimates!)

X Number of guys the girl is willing to date simultaneously (1.5)	X Fraction of girls that move from date to relationship (0.84)	X Fraction of relationships that are awesome (0.54508745)	X Fraction of relationships that become public (0.757)	X Length of time of such a relationship (0.749999831 y)
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Number of girls that could form an awesome relationship with me = Rate of girl enrolment at university (3500 g/y) X Fraction of girls that are single (0.65)

One of my assumptions must be invalid...

CAMPUS CRIME BEAT ILLUSTRATED by Conal Piersce



METALEETO by Ross Vincent



SAD HONKEYTONKS OF CURTIS STREET by Curtis Horsburgh



solution, tips and computer programs at www.sudoku.com

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CLASSIFIEDS

To place a classified ad, please go to www.campusclassifieds.ca

FOR RENT

Looking for a place to live? Check out www.rentingspaces.ca, the student housing registry. Free to search and free for students to post roommate listings!

FOR SALE

1999 Pontiac Transport White Minivan, 238,000km 4 doors, ac,pw locks, 7 seats 780.493-0677

SERVICES

Sort of like a giving tree without the tree: Letterwhiz.com.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

You are welcome to come check out the UofA Diamond Way Buddhist Group. The

DWBG offers meditation practice methods of the Karma Kagyu school of Tibetan Buddhism. Starting Sept. 30th we will meet in the education building (rm 113) every Tuesday at 6pm. www.diamondway.org/edmonton/

EMPLOYMENT - FULL TIME

Looking for a career in music? Visionary College is looking for motivated violin instructors to join their St. Albert location staff. Full-time or part-time we look forward to receiving your application. Please forward resumes to visionaryhr@gmail.com or fax to (780) 460-4431. Check out our website at www.visionarycollege.ab.ca

EMPLOYMENT - PART TIME

Personal care aide required for male quadriplegic. Weekend position, 1-3 weekends per month. Weekday position, 1 week on, one week off (perfect for part-time student) Both positions are Semi-flexible hours, plenty of time off available during Gymnastics, diving & swimming instructors wanted ASAP Fun learning environment



astronowatch

by Kati Kovacs

Well, things are slightly better than last week—a trip to Wetaskiwin always cheers me up a bit. Plus it's officially my favourite season now: Autumn! That's right, kids, Monday at 9:44am MDT the sun crossed above Earth's equator and headed south for the year. Soon enough it'll even be time to indulge the farmers and set our clocks back. Just you wait.

The sun seems to be loosing

power, claim NASA scientists. A study released this week reports that the solar wind (the stream of charged particles released from the sun's atmosphere) has hit a 50-year low. The average pressure of the solar wind has dropped almost 20 per cent! This has no consequences (as of yet) to people on Earth, but astronauts traveling to the moon and beyond could have increased exposure to radiation.

Even though this trend may be unusual in the 40 years we've been measuring the solar wind, it's likely

just a blip in the 4.57 billion years the sun has existed.

You know what I haven't done for a long time? Bowling. I think that has to be on the agenda for this weekend. I'm gonna totally boom the lanes.

AstronoWatch is a weekly feature that covers the goings-on in the night skies, the galaxy, and sometimes even Kati's personal life. Keep up with Astronowatch online at thegatewayonline.ca/astronowatch or check out the FABservatory's site at www.phys.ualberta.ca/observatory

for children in sport programs at Kinsmen Centre offered evenings & Saturday mornings. Superior wages, contact Taunya 780-444-7300 or send resume to swimgym@telusplanet.net

Part time aquarium maintenance person wanted. Good pay, flexible hours and the opportunity to work with a diverse collection of coral, marine and tropical fish. Immediate openings. Call Ron @ 780-938-7752.

Part-time work. Apply now. Flexible schedules, No experience needed, Customer sales/service \$16.85 base/appt, conditions apply. CALL 409-8608 or apply online at www.workforstudents.com

Work with children this year! U area school-age child care is hiring for morning/afternoon

shifts. Experience with children or Education classes an asset. Excellent wages. Ava 439-1456 windsorparkafterschool@shaw.ca

Food court attendant in SUB U of A. Mon - Fri 3:30pm - 8:30pm \$8.66/hr. Apply to Margriet, Rm 2-900 SUB, or margriet.tilroe-west@su.ualberta.ca

Mon - Thurs 11:30pm-7:30am. Pick any or all shifts. Caretaker in SUB U of A. \$11.36/hr + \$7/shift. Apply M. West, 2-900 SUB, or margriet.tilroe-west@su.ualberta.ca

PT Weekend Personal Care Aide needed for 25/F Quad, NE area, close to transit. AM/PM shifts \$65/shift or \$16.25/hr, Call Robin (RAPS) 425-5450 or email resume jmh6@shaw.ca

Cram Dunk, SUB U of A \$10.58/hr

5:45am-8:45am Mon-Fri Pick any or all shifts. Prepare & decorate donuts. jerry.daley@su.ualberta.ca

Great winter part time jobs. Edmonton Ski Club, Conveniently close to down town, is looking for: ski/snowboard instructors, rental shop personnel, customer service representatives, lift operators 780-465-0852 or send resume to Skiclub@telusplanet.net

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Volunteers needed. Healthy men and women (not on oral contraceptives) over age 18 needed to provide a 50 ml blood sample for research. Contact Dr. D Morrish 407-7420, dmorrish@ualberta.ca, or Dr. J. Dakour 492-6228.

EVENT-O-TRON 3000

Campus events and more...

This Friday from 6:15-8:45pm, there will be a Community Conversation on Climate Change in Alberta. It will take place at the main campus of the University of Alberta. About 200 citizens of all ages will come together, hear a very brief, factual speech about climate change, and then talk in small groups about how Alberta needs to change if we're to deal well with climate change.

The event will be structured as a World Café, where people move between conversations in small groups. Refreshments will be served.

Space is limited to 225 people, so please let us know if you are coming

by emailing climatecafe@gmail.com

There will also be a public round table on Thursday, September 25, 7:00-8:30pm in the Law center room 231/237.

EOT3 is a service provided for Registered Student Groups and University Departments only. EOT3 is printed semi-regularly in the Gateway. EOT3 does not publish events that are weekly, on-going, or not open to the public. We only accept free events. To play an entry in EOT3, please email production@gateway.ualberta.ca. The Gateway reserves the right to edit entries for length and clarity.

Gateway Online fun fact

During the 1970s, early laws required all tape drives to have pretty colours in order to amuse any passers-by in computer centres. thegatewayonline.ca AMUSED BY PRETTY COLOURS SINCE 1910



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